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ARAB TIMES

WEST END WATCH

something new in the watch world...

Yacoub Yousef Bahbehani

2029550

NO. 746 SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1989 RAJAB 26, 1409 AH 18 PAGES 150 FILS

Premadasa appoints premier

COLOMBO, March 3, (UPI): President Ranasinghe Premadasa today appointed Finance Minister D.B. Wijetunge as Sri Lanka's new prime minister ending weeks of political manoeuvring within the ruling United National Party (UNP) for the post.

As prime minister, Wijetunge will effectively be Premadasa's main representative in Parliament and the head of the UNP legislative delegation, which won 125 of 225 seats in Feb 15 general elections.

Sri Lanka's constitution provides for greater executive powers to the President than the prime minister, and Premadasa said in a statement that Wijetunge would serve for one year and then be replaced by another aspirant.

Wijetunge was the posts and telecommunications minister between 1977 and 1987, but experts were surprised when Premadasa named him finance minister because of his lack of experience on economic planning.

Wijetunge's appointment as prime minister leaves all of the top cabinet posts in the hands of Premadasa and his loyalists, with holdovers from the administration of former President Jinnayawene relegated to minor portfolios.

The two most powerful holdovers, Lalith Athulthumudali and Gamini Desanyake, were actively jockeying for the prime ministership.

Meanwhile, allegations that the Army could have stopped the massacre of 38 Sinhalese villagers prompted the Defence Ministry yesterday to order an investigation, a cabinet minister said.

"We have ordered the military to probe allegations made by survivors who alleged they warned a nearby Army camp of the impending attack, and the Army did not respond as quickly as they should have," Ranjan Wijeratne, foreign minister and deputy defence minister, said.

Moscow unveils plan to break deadlock

Soviets call for UN envoy for Middle East

MOSCOW, March 3, (UPI): The Soviet Union outlined yesterday its plan to break the negotiating deadlock in the Middle East, including a proposal for a special UN envoy to promote an international conference and direct Israeli-Palestinian talks.

Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze told the Communist Party daily newspaper Pravda that the PLO's acceptance of a dialogue with Israel and the nearly 15-month-old Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories have made a Middle East conference necessary.

"The situation in the Middle East has markedly changed of late. Real prerequisites for the start of a settlement have risen. This is mostly to the credit of the peaceful Palestinian uprising and to the realistic and constructive stand of the PLO leadership," Shevardnadze said.

"To give scope to the UN peace-making potential (and) to ensure other mutually acceptable flexible forms of constructive co-operation between the parties concerned with a settlement, we plan to request (UN Secretary-General) Javier Perez de Cuellar to appoint an authoritative person acceptable to everyone as his special envoy for the Middle East," Shevardnadze said.

The Soviet foreign minister, who returned on Monday from a 10-day, five-nation tour of the Middle East, also said the Kremlin would suggest setting a "time limit on the preparatory stage" to speed the convening of the conference.

The formula described by Shevardnadze loosely follows the one used by the Soviet Union and the United Nations to settle the war in Afghanistan and secure the withdrawal of Soviet troops from that country. A similar formula was used in negotiations on Angola and Namibia.

In Washington, Soviet Ambassador to the United States Yuri Dubinin also discussed the Middle East yesterday in an unusual meeting at the Soviet embassy with about 25 American reporters.

Dubinin said the preparatory phase for the peace conference should be limited to a specific time period, probably six to nine months, and that negotiations "can't be done without a clear pledge to refrain from terrorism against the other parties or other subversive activities."

The key to the negotiations, Dubinin said, would be a "recognition of balance of interests" that he defined as the return of the Israeli-occupied territories to the Arab states in return for a guarantee of security for the state of Israel.

Dubinin said the international conference would include "all the interested parties," including the Arab states, Israel, the PLO and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council — China, Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the United States.

Israel has consistently opposed international conferences on the Middle East and has rejected any negotiations that would include the PLO, which it considers a terrorist organisation.



HH the Crown Prince (left) received Arafat yesterday.

PLO leader arrives in Kuwait

Guerrillas will defend themselves: Arafat

KUWAIT, March 3, (Agencies): PLO chairman Yasser Arafat arrived in Kuwait today and held talks with HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah.

Arafat arrived from Abu Dhabi to attend a three-day meeting of the board of the Palestinian National Fund.

In Abu Dhabi, Arafat said earlier today that his guerrillas would defend themselves against Israel despite US criticism of recent attempts to infiltrate the Jewish state.

Undercut

"Do they expect me to issue orders for our forces in Lebanon to stop defending their children, women and camps," Arafat told reporters.

Israel has said attempted cross border raids by guerrillas from Lebanon, such as an attack on Wednesday by a Marxist faction of the PLO, violate Arafat's renunciation of terrorism last December.

Washington has said that such raids undercut its dialogue with the PLO, which resumed in December after a 13-year break.

Asked whether the US criticism of such attacks would harm the dialogue, Arafat said: "We have not said we will stop defending our camps and villages in Lebanon, which are under Israeli gunfire almost daily."

The PLO leader said Israel planned an offensive into Lebanon to ease the pressure on its government from a 14-month-old uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Rajiv offers concessions to end Punjab violence

NEW DELHI, March 3, (Reuters): Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi granted hardline Sikhs a series of concessions today in a bid to end violence in Punjab and resolve an issue clouding his chances in Indian general elections due by the year-end.

In a surprise announcement in Parliament, Rajiv ordered the release of Sikhs detained over a separatist movement in Punjab and lifted a ban on foreigners travelling in the state.

The issue, complicated by extremist attacks on Punjab's minority Hindus, must be settled before Rajiv can face polls with a reasonable chance of winning, political analysts said.

Rajiv appeared concerned to reassure the overwhelmingly Hindu majority in the rest of India, whose support he needs to retain power, telling the lower house the government was bringing Sikh violence under control.

Ceased

"Barring one or two groups, terrorists have ceased to be a political force. They are a criminal force," Rajiv told a session which started disastrously for him when he accused some opposition parties of backing extremists.

The opposition, angered by this, boycotted the budget session on Tuesday but was present today for his announcement on Punjab, where extremists pursuing a Sikh Khalistan (land of the pure) have killed more than 320 people this year.

Sikh leaders in Punjab welcomed the announcement. "It is a good first step but it must be backed with sincere action," said former Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala.

Rajiv withdrew special powers given security forces to arrest those suspected of separatist involvement. But success of his reconciliation bid hinges on leaders held in jail in neighbouring Rajasthan since a 1984 military sweep against extremist in Punjab.

Among those expected to be freed are Gurcharan Singh Tohra, head of a powerful committee managing Sikh temples in Punjab, with Prakash Singh Badal and other leaders of the United Akali Dal (UAD).

Accord

Release of UAD leaders holds the key to possible talks between hardliners and government over a Punjab accord signed in 1985 to settle Sikh political and economic demands.

Barnala said release of Badal and Tohra could lead to a political settlement.

Political sources said they did not expect 18 leaders of the radical All India Students Federation, held in Jodhpur jail since the 1984 operation, to be released. Rajiv told Parliament that the government would not drop cases against those charged with specific crimes.

Sikh leaders accuse Rajiv of not honouring obligations to transfer Chandigarh, now shared with Haryana, to Punjab as its exclusive capital and to give Punjab a greater share of waters of rivers flowing through the state.

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○ پیٹر پارٹی اور ایم کیو ایم کا معاہدہ نئے کامکان

○ پنجاب میں قیام امن کے لئے راجہ گاندھی کے اقدام

○ ایران نے غلطی کی وضاحت مسترد کر دی

○ سرنگر اور بنگرہ میں رشدی مخالف مظاہرے

○ سوڈان میں فوج کے برسرِ اقتدار آئے کاخروہ

○ پاکستان کے بکوں میں تبدیلیوں کا امکان

WEATHER

TEMPERATURE will be slightly above normal with light to moderate south-easterly wind.

State of sea: moderate

High water: 11.00 am, 8.00 pm

Low water: 4.00 am, 2.00 pm

Sunrise: 6.10 am

Sunset: 5.40 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 25°C 77°F

Amman: 23°C 73°F

Falaka: 22°C 72°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 14°C 57°F

Amman: 15°C 59°F

Falaka: 14°C 57°F

Maximum humidity expected:

Kuwait: 27°C 81°F

Amman: 25°C 77°F

Falaka: 24°C 75°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 60 per cent

Amman: 60 per cent

Falaka: 60 per cent

Iran rejects peace gesture by Britain

NICOSIA, March 3, (Reuters): Iran today put the threat of death over all writers who attacked Islam, and rejected a peace gesture by Britain in the Salman Rushdie crisis.

In the crowded university campus in central Tehran, Iranian President Ali Khamenei praised the death order first issued by Ayatollah Khomeini on Feb 14.

Expression

"From now on, anyone who wants to write these things, or to make a film out of it, will wait for death threats from Muslims who have accepted the imam's fatwa (religious decree) and want to carry it out," the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted him as saying.

British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe last night tried to distance the government from the contents of the book, while defending freedom of expression. He said The Satanic Verses was offensive both to Muslims and Britons.

Khamenei, without naming Howe, retorted: "The right to free expression is an excuse to deceive people, you are liars and hypocrites... how shameless and impudent you are."

Demonstrators calling for the British author's death for blasphemy in his novel The Satanic Verses marched on the British Council in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and Muslim fundamentalists.

(Continued on Page 2)

Situation deteriorating in Al Qurain camp

Indian sub-contractors in protective custody

By Fathima Ahmed

KUWAIT'S police on Wednesday rescued two Indian sub-contractors from an angry crowd of 900 labourers in Al Qurain and placed them in protective custody.

The labourers have been on strike since Jan 21 for non-payment of wages. Their case is before the labour court and the first hearing is on March 9.

The sub-contractors Javed Quraishi and H.S. Merwah suffered humiliation when they were garlanded with shoes after a heated debate over payment of arrears. Four months' wages have not been paid.

A group of workers told the

Arab Times the sub-contractors had offered them bribes to use their influence in ending the strike which has brought work on a major housing project to a standstill.

Agreed

The workers apparently agreed in order to lure the sub-contractors to the project site, where tempers flared after the sub-contractors told them they had nothing to do with the payment of wages.

"This was a move to get them talking," one worker said. He claimed the labourers had not intended to harm anyone. Another worker said: "Things

(Continued on Page 4)

Number of doctors per head

Qatar tops list among Arab states

GENEVA, March 3, (KUNA): There are more doctors, nurses and dentists per head of population in Qatar than in any other Arab country, and Kuwait is second-placed, according to figures from the World Health Organisation.

The "1988 World Health Statistics" published by the WHO said that Qatar has about 20 doctors, three dentists and 51 nurses for every 10,000 inhabitants. Kuwait has 15 doctors, two dentists and 47 nurses per 10,000 people.

The Gulf Co-operation Council countries were all high on the chart, with Oman at the bottom of the six-country organisation. It has nine doctors per 10,000 people while UAE has 10 doctors for the same number.

In Bahrain there are 12 doctors, and in Saudi Arabia 14 for 10,000 inhabitants.

By comparison, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen suffered a severe shortage of medical personnel, with just two doctors per 10,000 people.

According to the WHO figures, there were just 18 dentists in the entire country of 2.3 million people.

The Yemen Arab Republic was even worse, with less than two doctors per 10,000 and only 52 dentists, serving a population of 7.5 million.

The management and staff of

Kuwait Indo Trading Company

express their profound sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family on the sad demise of

Jassim Mohammad

Al Ali Al Wazzan

May his soul rest in peace

Iran rejects peace gesture by Britain

(Continued from Page 1)

shouted threats outside the British embassy in the Philippines.

The chant of Allah-o-Akbar (God is Great) rang out near Istanbul's historic blue mosque after Friday prayers as Turkish Muslims burnt the British flag and pictures of Rushdie.

Protests

But the 350-strong Writers Syndicate of Turkey sprang to Rushdie's defence on the principle of freedom of expression.

Police in Bombay, the birthplace of the 41-year-old writer, banned protest marches to try to stop anti-Rushdie violence. At least 20 people have been killed in protests, 12 of them in Bombay last week.

One Muslim youth was killed and two were wounded in Jammu and Kashmir state today as protests over the book raged. The youth was killed when police fired on demonstrators who laid siege to a police station in Srinagar, summer capital of the state.

Several hundred angry Muslims also held protest marches in the Kashmir town Baramulla. Police promptly imposed an indefinite curfew.

Three British Labour opposition party members today, in another attempt to defuse the crisis, calling on Parliament to urge Rushdie to stop producing any more or new editions of The Satanic Verses.

Compel

They said this would compel Khomeini to withdraw "his odious death threat" against Rushdie, who is in hiding under police protection.

Rushdie fears Britain may be abandoning him in trying to balance its protection of freedom of speech with its desire to prevent relations with Iran from breaking off completely, a parliamentary aide said today.

Khomeini has dismissed any chance of Rushdie avoiding death and hell and has said the writer, born into a Muslim family, could not be forgiven.

The Iranian Parliament on Tuesday gave Britain until March 7 to denounce Rushdie and withdraw its condemnation of Khomeini's death call.

West Germany cracks open spy ring of computer hackers

BONN, March 3, (AP): The federal government today called the cracking of a computer hackers spy ring a "major blow" against the Soviet KGB.

Government officials say the hackers sold Soviet agents thousands of sensitive codes and passwords from military and research computers.

A West German television network said the passwords and other information came from key military and research computers in the United States, Western Europe and Japan. Three men have been taken into custody in West Germany, and another five are under investigation.

Dimension

Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann called the computer hackers' operations "a new dimension of Soviet-bloc spy agencies."

"This has succeeded in dealing a major blow against the KGB Soviet secret service," he said in a statement.

The statement, read by Zimmermann's spokesman to a news conference, also said the full extent of damage from the spy ring could not yet be assessed.

Zimmermann's ministry is responsible for counterespionage and domestic intelligence-gathering.

In Hamburg today, West Germany's best-known hackers club said that in the autumn of 1987 it

had warned federal officials about the vulnerability of international computer systems.

"However, the federal constitutional protection office did not take the opportunity for a talk with German hackers," Chaos Computer Club President Wau Holland told reporters.

The federal office which Holland cited is responsible for counter-espionage work in West Germany.

Raiders

Holland's hackers organization is believed to have been involved in other computer break-ins in recent years in West Germany.

Alexander Prechtel, spokesman for the federal prosecutor's office in Karlsruhe, said yesterday that police in Hanover arrested two computer raiders. Known as "hackers," on "suspicion of espionage activities for an Eastern European intelligence agency."

Another suspect was arrested in West Berlin, he said.

Hackers use their detailed knowledge of computers to try to gain access to large computer networks, sometimes illegally.

Prechtel said investigators are trying to determine how much damage the suspected espionage had caused to Western security interests.

Roland Bachmeier, a spokesman for the federal Interior Min-

istry, also confirmed that searches and arrests had been made.

He said several West Germans have been detained on suspicion of "obtaining information about access to databanks, and to have passed that on to Soviet intelligence agents."

He refused to confirm other details of a report by the Norddeutsche Rundfunk Broadcasting network.

One security source said that the hackers tried to break into a large US military computer network in West Germany but failed to gain access to secret material. The source spoke on condition of not being identified.

Affected

The US Defence Department issued a one-sentence statement yesterday saying, "until possibly affected components of the Department of Defence have had a chance to analyse the report, we have no reaction."

Norddeutsche Rundfunk reported that at the bidding of Soviet agents, the computer hackers gained access to a key US Defence Department computer as well as to important research and business computers elsewhere.

The hackers obtained sensitive information that would allow the Soviets themselves to gain access to the computers and to develop technology based on the information, the network said.

PLO provides 'useful' information: US

WASHINGTON, March 3, (AP): The Palestine Liberation Organisation has provided the United States with "useful" information regarding counterterrorism, a US official said.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, declined to elaborate on the information conveyed by the PLO at a meeting in Tunis on Tuesday.

Willing

Earlier, deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Middle Eastern Affairs, Edward S. Walker, appeared to indicate the information concerned the explosion of Pan Am Flight 103 over Scotland in December.

Asked by a House subcommit-

tee about a statement two weeks ago by the State Department's top counter-terrorism official, Ambassador L. Paul Bremer, that the PLO had not furnished the United States with any information, Walker replied: "I couldn't make that same statement today."

Walker also said the PLO had asked for a meeting on Tuesday with US Ambassador Robert Pelletreau in Tunis because the Palestinians had "some information to pass." But he declined to say what the information was about.

Walker said he would be willing to brief the subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East in a closed session about the infor-

mation received from the PLO.

But the other State Department official said Walker did not mean to indicate the information concerned the Pan Am flight. "It was not about a particular incident," he said.

Report

PLO chairman Yasser Arafat has said he was preparing a report on the bombing, but US officials have so far denied getting any documents from him.

Pelletreau took the opportunity of Tuesday's meeting to criticize a raid last week by three PLO commandos in southern Lebanon not far from Israel's border by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Politicians condemn, critics hail film of scandal

LONDON, March 3, (AP): Christine Keeler, who rocked Harold Macmillan's government 26 years ago in a sensational sex-and-security scandal, was back on newspaper front pages today, pictured at the world premiere of the movie "Scandal" which retells the story.

As Ms Keeler, 47, arrived last night at London's Odeon Cinema in a gown slit to the thigh, politicians condemned the movie for raking up the scandal.

But critics praised it as the most accomplished British commercial film in years, admirably cast and highly enjoyable.

Party girl, call-girl, fall-girl, Madonna, whore, and innocent were among epithets lavished on Keeler by the judges, politicians, journalists, businessmen and racketeers involved one way or another in the case as the scandal reached its climax in 1963.

The red-haired beauty had arrived in London five years before as an illegitimate 16-year-old. Her family lived in an old railroad car at Slough, 20 miles (30 kilometres) west of London.

Showgirl

With her fine features, dark eyes and superb figure, she got a job as a showgirl in a nightclub. There she met Dr Stephen Ward, an osteopath with friends in high places and communist sympathies.

One of his friends was Capt. Eugene Ivanov, an assistant naval attaché at the Soviet embassy. Another was cabinet member John Profumo, the secretary of state for war.

Ward used to offer girls he picked up to friends for sex. He picked up Keeler and introduced her to Profumo.

She and Profumo, Ivanov and Ward were weekend guests at Chiswick, the vast country mansion of Lord and Lady Astor on the River Thames west of London. Keeler caught Profumo's eye swimming naked in the pool there.

The scandal centred on concerns that secrets may have gone to the Soviets through the links among the four people. When the scandal broke, Ivanov fled to Moscow and Ward was charged with living on proceeds from prostitution.

Soldiers hunt for snipers as Caracas returns to normal

CARACAS, March 3, (AP): Soldiers hunted for snipers early today and the sound of automatic weapons echoed through the capital before dawn, but the President's chief of staff said the city was returning to normal after four days of riots that reportedly left more than 300 dead.

The government today was to open food-distribution centres to relieve shortages caused by the unrest's widespread looting.

Buses and cars began circulating normally in Caracas at dawn today as a dusk-to-dawn curfew drew to a close.

Search

El Nacional, a leading independent newspaper, reported that more than 300 people died, 1,500 were injured and 3,000 arrested in the capital since the violence began on Monday night in protest of new government austerity measures that included increases in bus fares and gasoline prices.

He urged Venezuelans to go back to work and promised public transportation would resume normal schedules.

Perez also confirmed today that Venezuela had suspended payment on its \$33-billion

As a third dusk-to-dawn curfew settled over the city last night, soldiers continued house-to-house searches in downtown Caracas and in the capital's western slums, looking for snipers and looted merchandise.

In one case, soldiers fired at a balcony when they saw people standing there, frightening them back inside.

In a nationwide television broadcast last night, President Carlos Andres Perez' chief of staff said the capital was steadily returning to normal, but acknowledged that there were still "pockets of disturbance" that the military was trying to quell.

"There is a growing process of normalization in the capital," said Reinaldo Figueredo.

He urged Venezuelans to go back to work and promised public transportation would resume normal schedules.

Perez also confirmed today that Venezuela had suspended payment on its \$33-billion

foreign debt, Latin America's fourth largest. He said he did not know when the suspension would be lifted.

Venezuelans, unaccustomed to being in a state of emergency after three decades of political stability, have tended to remain on the streets despite the curfew, making soldiers nervous.

Growing food shortages threatened to thwart the government's attempts to restore order following four days of agitation over price hikes.

Looters emptied the shelves of supermarkets and neighbourhood grocery stores in the early days of rioting, which began on Monday. Since then, soldiers have guarded stores, where people have been waiting hours in line to buy such staples as eggs, bread and cheese.

Figueredo said the government was setting up a food-distribution network in the capital of four million people with supplies airlifted from around the country.

Thatcher wants to ban chemicals harming ozone

LONDON, March 3, (UPI): Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said yesterday chemicals that harm the ozone layer will be banned from new refrigerators and freezers in Britain and new cars will be required to run on unleaded gasoline by 1990.

In an interview on the British Broadcasting Corp.'s "Nature" programme, Thatcher also predicted the more than 110 nations attending an international conference on "saving the ozone layer" in London starting on Sunday would agree to cut the use of ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs, by 85 percent in the next 10 years.

Biggest

Scientists believe CFCs deplete the ozone layer, allowing harmful ultraviolet rays from the sun to pass into the atmosphere to create a global warming known as the "greenhouse effect."

CFCs are commonly used in refrigerators and freezers, foams, solvents, aerosols and air conditioners. Britain is Western Europe's biggest producer and exporter of CFCs, the environmental group Greenpeace said.

In Brussels, the European Economic Community committed itself yesterday to eliminate by the end of the century all harmful gases that attack the earth's ozone layer.

Environment ministers of the 12 EEC nations agreed that the Montreal protocol of September 1987, which aimed at reducing the use of CFCs by 50 percent by 1998, should quickly be revised and made more ambitious.

The environmental group Greenpeace said on Wednesday in London that the United States produces about one third of the CFCs consumed in the world.

Protection

In Washington, Environmental Protection Agency administrator William Reilly said yesterday the European Economic Community's action "is very encouraging news for the world's environment."

Marriage between men in China

BEIJING, March 3, (AP): Two men, one a former soldier and the other a farmer, married each other recently in a traditional ceremony in rural China, according to an official report.

Local authorities are now trying to break up the "marriage" and the ex-soldier, who has acknowledged he is a homosexual, has been fired from his job, the weekly press digest (Baokan Wenzhai) said in a report seen today.

Ye Xing, 26, a decorated four-year veteran of the People's Liberation Army, played the role of the bride in his Jan. 10 marriage to Li Linxing, 30, the weekly said.

Nearly 100 friends and relatives were invited to the ceremony and banquet in a rural area of coastal Fujian province, the weekly said.

The township government and the department of public health are now trying to separate the two and Ye was fired from his job, but they are still living together with Li's family, the weekly said.

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2 Completed Groups Gift Voucher worth KD. 10
3 Completed Groups Gift Voucher worth KD. 15
4 Completed Groups Gift Voucher worth KD. 20
5 Completed Groups Gift Voucher worth KD. 25
6 Completed Groups Gift Voucher worth KD. 30

For one completed Group, only one prize can be claimed.

The Coupon at the bottom of the chart should be retained for the Lucky Draw, which will be held on 16.3.89, 12.4.89 and 18.5.89.

In each Draw, 10 Lucky Numbers will be drawn and 10 prizes given away as under:-

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6th Prize: Gift Voucher worth KD. 10/-

7th Prize: Gift Voucher worth KD. 40/-
8th Prize: Gift Voucher worth KD. 20/-
9th Prize: Gift Voucher worth KD. 10/-
10th Prize: Gift Voucher worth KD. 5/-

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Dinner: 6.30 pm to midnight.

مركز سلطان

Its delay flight

YO, March 3, (Reuters): so fugitive rats have given themselves up after grounding a Japan Airlines Boeing 747 for 30 hours by hiding in cargo hold, a JAL spokesman said today.

A pair were among 25 laboratory rats imported on New York who ran away after their cage broke open aboard the jumbo jet shortly after it arrived at Tokyo's Narita airport on Wednesday night.

Intense searches by airline officials failed to uncover the rats' hideout, but eventually they came out by themselves.

Where were they hiding for 30 hours? You'd have to ask the rats," the spokesman said.

The plane was scheduled to return to New York immediately, but had to be grounded until the two were found, causing a six-hour delay for more than 300 passengers.

Four guerrillas killed in fighting with Israelis

BEIRUT, March 3, (Agencies): A radical PLO faction yesterday claimed involvement in a 90-minute firefight with Israeli troops in south Lebanon in which police said four guerrillas were killed.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine said in a statement it attacked Israeli troops in retaliation for an Israeli air raid Tuesday on one of its bases in the Shouf mountains southeast of Beirut. Contradicting the police report it said two guerrillas were killed in the attack.

In Damascus, the Marxist DFLP said that it planned to step up attacks against Israel regardless of PLO chairman Yasser Arafat's pledged renouncing terrorism.

A DFLP statement said the group was determined "to escalate the armed struggle and direct all kinds of blows to the

Israeli occupation forces and all other Israeli tools to repression."

The statement added that it considered Arafat's pledge was not binding on the DFLP.

A police spokesman said the guerrillas were killed in a clash with Israeli troops and their allies of the South Lebanon Army militia near Majdel Zoun village, 14 miles (22 kilometres) southeast of Tyre.

"Israeli-SLA forces engaged the guerrillas before entering the zone. Four commandos were killed in a 90-minute clash with automatic rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and mortars," the spokesman said.

The guerrillas could not be immediately identified, according to the spokesman who cannot be named in line with standing rules.

A similar DFLP attack against Israeli soldiers last Thursday was criticised by the

United States as having a negative impact on the US-PLO dialogue and prospects for Israeli-Palestinian talks.

In Jerusalem, Israel Radio reported a fifth guerrilla escaped the ambush, and that leaflets found on the bodies of the dead indicated their mission was to capture and kill Jews in northern Israel.

The radio also said hand-held launchers, Kalashnikov rifles, barbed wire and hand grenades were found near the bodies.

Security officials in Lebanon said the Israeli-led force opened fire on the guerrillas as they moved in a ravine near the village of Al Jouban.

Meanwhile, the Israeli Army is training special mechanised units for quelling the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, the Army weekly Bamahe reported in its latest issue.

Move to impose authority

Troops rushed to S. Lebanon

ZAHIRANI, March 3, (Reuters): New Lebanese Army units were sent to south Lebanon today to try and impose their authority and restore normal life to an area racked by militia violence.

Some 370 soldiers with nine Soviet-made T54 tanks and 12 armoured troop carriers deployed on the coast between the ports of Sidon and Tyre and a few kilometres to the east.

They stopped well short of Israel's self-declared security zone across southern Lebanon, set up to halt cross-border guerrilla attacks.

The purpose of the force, loyal to the mainly Muslim command of Lebanon's divided Army, was to back some 400 soldiers already in the area but powerless against guerrillas and rival militias.

Lieutenant-Colonel Nassif Kasso who leads the troops said more would be sent in later. He refused to give details.

The Army said the move should help ensure implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425, which called for a total and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

"The move also confirms the Army command's national and pan-Arab obligations and our sacred right to liberate our occupied land from the Israeli enemy," an Army statement said.

Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982 to expel Palestinian guerrillas. The bulk of Israeli forces withdrew in 1985.

An estimated 1,000 Israeli soldiers and Israel's Lebanese militia allies control a border security zone extending up to 20 km into Lebanon to protect the Jewish state from attack.

Official Lebanese sources said the nearest the new troops came to the security zone was 15 km to the west.

Reconnaissance Witnesses said Israeli planes flew over south Lebanon on reconnaissance missions as the tanks and soldiers drove in.

Political sources said the reinforcement reflected the desire of Lebanon's Muslim government to establish its authority in the south as it vies for power with a Christian administration.

The region is a staging ground for guerrilla attacks against Israel. It is controlled by Lebanese Muslim militias, a UN peacekeeping force, the Israeli Army and the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia.

Pro-Iranian and Syrian-backed Shi'ite Muslim militiamen killed about 140 people in battles for supremacy in Beirut and the south in January before a Damascus peace pact took hold.

The Army statement said the mainly Muslim government of

Selim Hoss approved the deployment to "back regular Army troops stationed there in repulsing the continued Israeli aggression on Lebanese territory and help restore normal life."

Authority

The Hoss government is struggling for authority with a Christian military cabinet appointed by President Amin Gemayel before ending his term last September without a successor.

Army commander Major-General Michel Aoun, a Christian who heads the military government, has called for authorities to take control in Lebanon since his troops fought with Christian militiamen last month.

He has an estimated 15,000 soldiers in Lebanon's Christian enclave while another 15,000 regulars serve in Muslim areas.

Lebanese officials said several Israeli jets passed at medium altitude over the port city of Sidon, 38 km south of Beirut, and nearby regions as the Lebanese Army troops were taking up positions.

Palestinian and Muslim militia forces already in the area opened up with a hail of anti-aircraft fire as the Israeli planes appeared, but missed the targets.

The warplanes were apparently filming the movement of the new troops, who were dispatched to the south.

Judge quits hearing of Carbide case

NEW DELHI, March 3, (Reuters): A Supreme Court judge pulled out of hearing legal challenges to the Bhopal gas compensation settlement today and said he wanted to dissociate himself from last month's ruling.

The Press Trust of India said Justice E.S. Venkataramaiah told the court criticism of the \$470 million settlement between Union Carbide Corporation and the Indian government over the world's worst industrial disaster were worse than impeachment.

India's Chief Justice R.S. Pathak ordered that a new bench should hear challenges to the settlement, which ended a long-running legal battle over the disaster in the central India city Bhopal in 1984.

The Supreme Court has been under mounting criticism since it secured the agreement of the US multinational and its Indian subsidiary to pay \$470 million to compensate victims of the disaster.

Referring to what he called a campaign of vilification against the court, Venkataramaiah said: "Such attacks on the honourable court is worse than an impeachment move against the judges that settled the case."

Venkataramaiah told the court: "As far as I am concerned I am withdrawing from the compromise orders pronounced by the court on Feb 14 and 15."

bul foreign minister arrives in New Delhi

India denies flying Afghan jets

NEW DELHI, March 3, (AP): government has denied Indian news reports that Indian Force pilots were flying Afghan Air Force planes and using guerrilla bases.

The denial coincided with the arrival of the Afghan foreign minister for an official four-day visit.

It is categorically stated that Indian pilots or technical personnel have never been engaged in providing any support whatever to the Afghan Air Force.

The official said reports by the Indian news agency claiming that Indian Air Force pilots were flying Afghan Air Force jets to attack Muslim militant bases around Khost in Afghanistan were "false and unfounded." He described the reports as "baseless and misleading."

The spokesman said the Indian embassy in Beijing had lodged a protest with the Chinese government.

The spokesman also denied another Xinhua report claiming that New Delhi was providing military assistance to the Afghan government. He said, however, that India was participating in economic programmes dedicated to the welfare of the people of Afghanistan, "with whom we have age-old ties of friendship."

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil, who arrived last night, was scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and other high officials, including Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao and Deputy Foreign Minister Natwar Singh for official talks before returning home on Sunday.

The spokesman declined to comment on the nature of the

official talks, but said Wakil was carrying a letter from Afghan President Najib for Rajiv.

Meanwhile, a rebel commander said a planned coup against Najibullah was uncovered by the government just before the last Soviet troops left the country last month.

Afghan Vice-President Abdul Rahim Hatf said today President Najibullah would step down if it was the only way to restore peace to the country.

Hatf, in Geneva to attend a meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Commission, said Najibullah was elected for a seven-year term in November 1987.

"But I am sure if his stepping down is the only prescript for the solution of Afghan affairs and bringing peace to Afghanistan he will step down," Hatf told a news conference. "But it is not a panacea, it is not the only solution."

Vietnamese boat people back home

HONG KONG, March 3, (AP): Seventy-five Vietnamese returned by charter jet yesterday to their homeland, beginning the first large-scale repatriation programme for boat people no longer willing to languish in detention centres.

The boat people were among 11,000 Vietnamese who have sailed into this British colony since it adopted a tough new policy last year that rules out resettlement for most of them.

Many of the returning 46 men, 19 women and 10 children boarded the UN-chartered Boeing 737 jet smiling, waving and shaking hands with local officials. Several wore new clothes; a few carried cassette tape players.

When their plane touched down in Hanoi last night, they were met by Vietnamese, British and UN officials. Hong Kong Radio reported. Relief officials aboard the airplane said there was no tension during the flight, it said.

Pleasure "I'm happy to be back," Lan Bun See told reporters as he stepped off the plane. "This is my homeland. I feel... very happy."

The group was whisked to the passenger terminal by coach where they were rushed through immigration, reports from Hanoi said.

"This is an important start," said security branch official Michael Hanson, who watched the group leave Hong Kong. "We hope more people will take this route back to Vietnam" and relieve the crowded camps that are home to about 26,000 boat people in Hong Kong.

The repatriation was arranged under an agreement reached by Vietnam and the UN High Commission for Refugees.

15 feared killed in Indian fire

NEW DELHI, March 3, (AP): at least 25 people were feared killed in a fire and stampede in the steel city of Jamshedpur when flames engulfed a tent during celebrations honouring the founder of one of India's biggest industrial companies, news agencies reported.

Press Trust of India said at least 25 people, including women and children, had died. United News of India said at least 25 were feared dead and 50 severely injured.

The news agencies said the fire broke out in a big tent jammed with spectators watching a parade at the Tata Iron and Steel Co. in Jamshedpur, 225 kilometres west of Calcutta.

Press Trust of India said about 9,000 people watching the parade tried to flee as flames shot into the sky.

United News of India said flames fanned the flames before fire trucks arrived. The news agency said the cause of the fire was not yet known, but police suspected there was an electrical short circuit.

Islamic group calls for general strike

NICOSIA, March 3, (Reuters): The Islamic resistance movement Hamas called today for a general strike in the occupied territories and a week-long confrontation with Israel to mark the Muslim feast of Isra and Mi'raj.

In a statement sent to Reuters in Cyprus, the fundamentalist organisation called for seven days of struggle against the occupation beginning today.

Muslims believe that the Holy Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) stopped in Jerusalem during a journey from Makkah to heaven and celebrate on Sunday.

Partition Hamas also called for a general strike on Thursday, March 9, which it said marked the beginning of the 16th month of the Palestinian intifada (uprising).

"The land of Palestine was honoured by this miracle (Isra and Mi'raj) so the holiness of Palestine is related to that of Makkah," the statement said.

Hamas, which has its main base of support in the Gaza Strip, has taken a harder line towards

Israel than has the more powerful and secular Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The two groups have often been at loggerheads, and Hamas has accused the PLO of selling out by accepting the principle of a partition of historic Palestine.

"In answer to the arrogance of the Jews, let the Palestinian, the Arab and the Muslim call on the occasion of Isra and Mi'raj be — no to talks with the enemy. No to the compromise of one inch of the land of Palestine and the way to liberation is jihad (holy war)," the Hamas statement said.

It added that talks about the "land of Isra and Mi'raj" should be held all over the world. It also called for a general day of fasting and prayers on Monday, March 6.

Meanwhile, the spiritual leader of the Islamic movement in Israel, buoyed by strong Arab support in local voting this week, said yesterday the group accepted Israel's right to exist and might contest parliamentary elections.

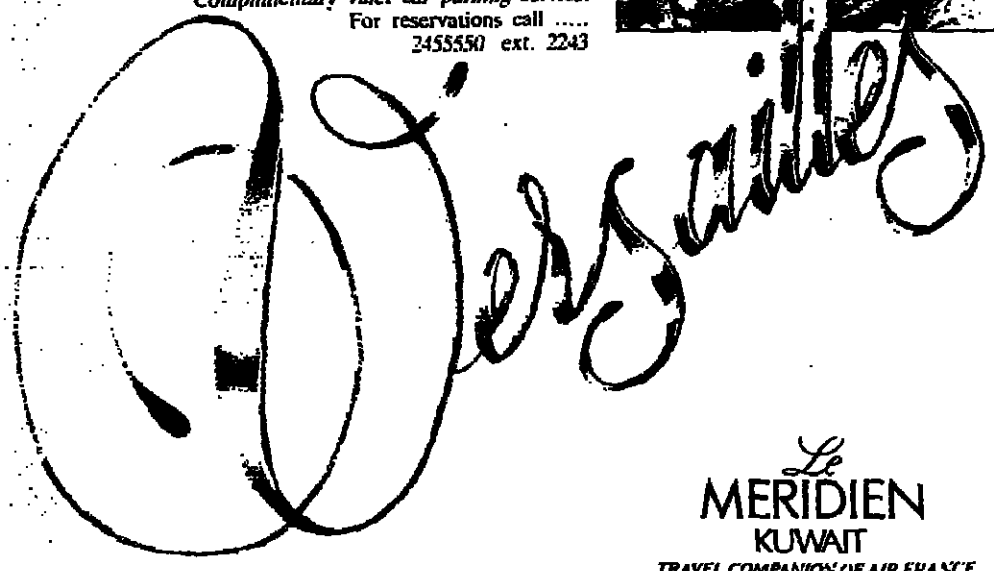
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Cables of congratulations

KUWAIT, March 3, (KUNA): HH the Amir sent a congratulatory cable to Moroccan monarch King Hassan II on the occasion of his accession to the throne.

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah also sent a cable of congratulations to King Hassan II of Morocco on the occasion of his country's national day.

Sheikh Saad sent a similar cable to Moroccan Premier Dr Ezzulain Al Iraki.

Awadi meets envoys

KUWAIT, March 3, (KUNA): Planning Minister Abdul Rahman Al Awadi received at his office yesterday the British Ambassador to Kuwait Peter Hinchcliffe and discussed with him means of boosting co-operation in development fields.

Awadi also received the Canadian Ambassador to Kuwait, David McCracken where they discussed planning and development issues of mutual concern to the two countries.

Iraqi amnesty

BAGHDAD, March 3, (KUNA): The Iraqi government has issued a general amnesty effective next month for 30 days to Iraqis who live in exile and decided to stop legal measures against them.

Iraq News Agency said the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council issued this resolution on amnesty for Iraqi exiles except, Jalal Al Talbani and pro-Iranian agents.

The amnesty demanded that the Iraqis who live in exile should return during the month of April and they would then be allowed to travel again if they have business engagements or study abroad.

Aziz delivers ACC messages

BAGHDAD, March 3, (KUNA): Iraq's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz returned home from Bahrain and Morocco where he delivered messages from President Saddam Hussein to the Amir of Bahrain Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa and King Hassan II of Morocco.

President Saddam is current chairman of the newly established Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) which comprises Jordan, Egypt, Yemen Arab Republic and to Iraq.

Chairman

Sheikh Issa is the current chairman of the eight-year-old Gulf Co-operation Council that groups Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Qatar while King Hassan II is current chairman of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), established last month between Morocco, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Mauritania.

Aziz said upon arrival that the two messages expressed the ACC's desire to establish relations with GCC and the AMU in compliance with the founding agreement of the ACC.

He said the two leaders welcomed the ACC's gesture and regarded it as a boost to Arab solidarity.

Pearls project

THE Kuwait Municipal Affairs Committee has referred the "Kuwait Pearls" project to its technical sub-committee for further studies.

The sub-committee will now review the project with all government authorities to exactly determine the coastal areas and sites in which the proposed "Pearls" can be constructed.

The State Minister for Municipal Affairs, Mohammad Al Refai announced last month that a local company presented a complete project to the Kuwait Municipality for constructing what it called cities along the coast of Kuwait.

Imported cattle subjected to thorough veterinary checks

THE Director of Slaughterhouses Department at Kuwait Municipality, Sheikh Salem Mohammed Salman Al Sabah, said that imported animals are subjected to a thorough veterinary examination by the Animal Health Department of the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Wealth prior to entry into the country.

Fresh and frozen meat imported from foreign countries should be accompanied with certificates showing that they were slaughtered according to certified Islamic instructions, including a certificate that they are free of any contagious diseases. A certificate proving that they are free from harmful radia-

Osaimi ends one-day official visit to India

NEW DELHI, March 3, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saoud Mohammed Al Osaimi concluded his one-day visit to India after holding talks with his counterpart on bilateral matters and international issues, including the situation in the Middle East.

Osaimi, who led a three-member delegation, met Indian Minister of State for External Affairs K.K. Tiwari and exchanged views with him on various issues including the Palestine problem, Gulf situation and role of Non-Aligned Movement in defusing the crisis.

The Kuwaiti minister appreciated the role played by India in various international fora to plead the cause of Palestine, official sources said.

Shared views

Kuwait and India share views on many issues and work together in promoting world peace. The minister also explored the possibility of investment by Kuwait in India. Kuwaiti Ambassador to India Ali Zakaria Al Ansari attended the talks.

The Indian side has briefed the visiting dignitary on the latest political situation in Afghanistan. India wants a non-aligned sovereign and independent Afghanistan.

Osaimi held talks with Minister of External Affairs Narasimha Rao and sought his views on India's role in a nuclear-free world and in promoting regional co-operation.

The official described his visit as important and said the two sides had fruitful discussions on matters of mutual concern.

Osaimi and Narasimha Rao underlined the need to revitalise the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) so that it can play an effective role in the developing international scenario. Discussions were also held on important regional issues such as the



Saoud Al Osaimi

Middle East question and the Iran-Iraq peace negotiations under the aegis of the UN secretary-general.

The official talks chaired by Osaimi and Tiwari were held in an atmosphere of understanding and cordiality. Indo-Kuwaiti bilateral relations were reviewed in depth with both sides underscoring the need to have a regular exchange of high level visits.

The Indian side indicated its interest in Kuwait investing in India. A reference was also made to bilateral trade and economic relations and the need to enhance them to mutual advantage. Vast potential existed in the fields of project exports and operation and maintenance contracts by Indian firms in Kuwait. India could also offer managerial skills of highest competence at very competitive rates to Kuwait.

Labour issues and cremation facilities for Indians in Kuwait were also discussed.

The Indian side briefed the visiting dignitary on India's efforts to improve its relations with its neighbours particularly with China and Pakistan. The Kuwaiti side appreciated the assistance provided by India to resolve the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka and in the Maldivian crisis in the spirit of good neighbourliness.

Osaimi invited K.K. Tiwari to pay an official visit to Kuwait.

Electricity prices will not be increased: Rqobah

DR Homoud Al Rqobah, the Minister of Electricity and Water (MEW) denied any intention to increase prices of electricity.

Talking in an interview with Kuwait Television last night, he also stressed on the importance of the present accounting system of electricity bills, water from Shatt Al Arab of Iraq to be piped to Kuwait, plans of the ministry to provide farms and chalets in Kuwait with fresh water and electricity and focused on the best methods to save power in Kuwait.

The official also spoke briefly on results of investigations on the power failure in Kuwait last

December which were reviewed by the cabinet last Tuesday. He also commented on plans of the ministry to modernise power stations during this year.

In a related development, Abdullah Al Minayes, the under-secretary of MEW reiterated that the ministry has no intention to hike prices of electricity and water. The state subsidises these services and requests users to avoid wastage of these essentials which are provided at symbolic prices.

The present prices of water are 800 fils for each 1,000 gallons and two fils for each kilowatt of electricity, Minayes said.

Unlicensed Abdali farms destroyed without notice

FARMERS of Abdali area complained that the State Properties Department at the Ministry of Finance had removed several unlicensed farms without giving adequate notice.

They queried as to how productive farms could be removed when the state maintains it has ambitious plans to afford Kuwait. They alleged that their farms had been established several years ago at a cost of tens of thousands of dinars per farm.

They added that there are more than 70 farms which were

established without obtaining licences from the relevant authorities. A government decision in 1986 permitted these farms to operate and began the process of legalising these farms.

Farmers claimed that tractors of the department destroyed plants, water pumps, trees and houses. They have called on the state to compensate them for their losses.

Meanwhile, reliable sources said that the State Properties Department suspended its activities to remove the illegal farms after the Abdali incident.

Kuwait University to readmit students suspended for working

IT was learnt that the Administrative Court, in the first ruling of its kind, asked Kuwait University to readmit all students suspended or terminated because of combining study with jobs and to rescind its decisions in this respect.

Violation

The university expelled a number of its students for violating a law issued in 1984 banning university students from combining study with work. The students' lawyers called upon

the court to first reverse the university expulsions and then abolish the law itself. The students' petition to the court cited a second law issued in 1985 allowing certain sections of students, who need jobs, to combine study with work.

Amiri directive

The Civil Service Council, under the directives of HH the Amir has allowed university students to work on a hourly basis in a decision issued at the end of last month.

Electro '89 exhibition to open March 29

KUWAIT International Fairs Company will organise the Electro '89 exhibition at the International Fairgrounds in Mishref on March 29, 1989 under the patronage of the Commerce and Industry Minister, Faisal Abdul Razzaq Al Khalid.

An official source at the company said that the exhibition will include all that is related to electronics and electricity, like televisions, videos, radios, recorders, washing machines and other appliances.

It will also comprise audio and visual devices, cameras and other photographic equipment. More than 23 companies will participate in the exhibition.

Indian sub-contractors in protective custody

(Continued from Page 1)

got out of hand because the sub-contractors were making excuses for not paying us."

On Friday, the labourers were in a peaceful mood despite the deteriorating conditions at the camp. The stench from open sewers in the mid-day sun was unbearable. Water is in short supply but the workers are being fed regularly by a group of Indians who have formed a committee to help the labourers.

The committee chairman N.V.K. Warrior said they have so far spent a total of KD3,000 since Feb 8 to feed the workers. In contrast, the Indian embassy has handed out a sum of KD100, in two instalments of KD50 each, to pay for the workers' transportation to and from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

UN observers still hopeful of military meeting

Iran opens talks to break deadlock

UNITED NATIONS, March 3, (AP): An Iranian diplomat met with UN officials to begin preparations for talks aimed at breaking a deadlock in Iran-Iraq peace talks.

Iraq's Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and his Iranian counterpart, Ali Akbar Velayati, agreed Feb 10 to meet for UN-mediated talks in late March or early April somewhere near the UN headquarters.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister, Mohammed Hussain Lavasani opened two days of meetings yesterday with the secretary-general's special representative to the talks, Swedish Ambassador Jan K. Eliasson and other UN officials.

Next week Iraqi representatives will meet with Eliasson and the UN experts to present their views.

Tensions

Meanwhile, Aziz accused Iran of "perverse behaviour" for refusing to allow its military officers to meet with their Iraqi counterparts in an effort to reduce tensions on the 740-mile (1,190 kilometre) front line, where a tenuous ceasefire has been in force since Aug 20.

In late January, Iran and Iraq agreed to a variety of confidence-building measures including the establishment of a joint military committee to discuss allegations of true violations, despite their failure to compromise on the fundamental issues of the Gulf war.

Broken agreement

In a letter sent to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar this week, Aziz said Iran and Iraq had agreed to hold their first meeting of the Iran-Iraq mixed military working group on Feb 22.

The Iranian side, however, broke the agreement and refused to hold the meeting as agreed, Aziz said in his letter.

Iran has not offered any official response.

Both Iran and Iraq had issued belittling pronouncements prior to each round of their peace talks, which began in Geneva last Aug 25 but immediately deadlocked on the key issues.

Iraq insists that the next step must be the withdrawal of troops to the border. Iraq still holds about 260 square miles (1,000 square kilometres) of Iranian territory.

Rights

Iraq, however, maintains that Iran must relinquish its right to search ships in international waters of the Gulf for Iraq-bound war cargo. Iran has not actually stopped any ships since the beginning of the ceasefire, but reserves its right to do so.

Baghdad also wants the Shatt Al Arab waterway, its only outlet to the Gulf, cleared of sunken ships and silt. Iran refuses to co-operate with any plans to open the waterway unless Baghdad recognises a 1975 treaty that sets their border in the middle of the water, giving each nation control of one bank.

Exchanges of the estimated 100,000 prisoners of war have also broken down, with repatriation of only a few hundred of the sick and injured.

Atmosphere suitable for bolstering peace in the Gulf: Gerasimov

MOSCOW, March 3, (KUNA): The Soviet Union yesterday welcomed Washington's recent decision to scale down by half the number of its naval fleet in the Arabian Gulf waters.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told a news briefing here that cessation of armed hostilities between Iraq and Iran has created a suitable atmosphere for bolstering peace in that region. He stressed that elimination of foreign military presence in the area would be a positive factor.

The spokesman hoped the US would take positive steps similar to the one taken in order that peace and security can be restored in the Arabian Gulf region.

Joint group

Meanwhile, Gerasimov confirmed that during their recent talks in Cairo the foreign ministers of the Soviet Union and Israel had agreed on setting up a joint consultative group of experts to thrash out issues pertaining to a peace settlement in the Middle East.

He, however, said that "the level and date of these consultations have not been decided yet."



The wretched living conditions of the workers.

Indian sub-contractors in protective custody

(Continued from Page 1)

got out of hand because the sub-contractors were making excuses for not paying us."

On Friday, the labourers were in a peaceful mood despite the deteriorating conditions at the camp. The stench from open sewers in the mid-day sun was unbearable. Water is in short supply but the workers are being fed regularly by a group of Indians who have formed a committee to help the labourers.

The committee chairman N.V.K. Warrior said they have so far spent a total of KD3,000 since Feb 8 to feed the workers. In contrast, the Indian embassy has handed out a sum of KD100, in two instalments of KD50 each, to pay for the workers' transportation to and from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

The committee spends about KD150 per day, donated by the Indian community, to buy rice, vegetables and other foodstuff. Food has also been donated by the Kuwait Airways Corporation.

Commercial Bank, such Indian groups as UMO and K.M.C.C. and other individuals.

Last week, the main contractor of the project offered to repatriate the workers but they refused to leave saying they would go back only after getting their salaries.

Project engineer S.S. Phul said: "Most labourers have nothing to fall back on. If they are repatriated without wages, they will be stranded at the Delhi or Bombay airport."

Phul and other staff at the camp have held meetings with Labour Ministry officials. He said: "The labour officials told us they would do their best to settle



The family of Sayana who now resort to begging to feed themselves.

our problem."

The main contractor and labour officials have asked the labourers to resume work on the project. But the workers contend they don't have the proper equipment or raw materials to restart work. They are also not sure whether they will be paid once they resumed work.

In January, lack of adequate amenities at the labour camp led to the death of a labourer named Sayana (from Andhra Pradesh), whose wife and three children have been reduced to beggary at a railway station in Bombay. Sayana died during the cold wave that hit Kuwait. His body was repatriated 22 days after his death.

The labourers have no ID cards to avail themselves of medical facilities. Soon, they may be short of food again.

The Indian committee now feeding them will run out of funds by March 10. "We will not be able to feed them any longer (than March 10)," said Warrior.

The committee held a meeting

A senior UN official however said yesterday that the meeting between Iraqi and Iranian officers postponed last week can take place as a problem over its location is solved.

Salim Fahmawi, chief spokesman for the 350-strong UN observer group monitoring the Gulf war ceasefire, said that both sides are willing to hold the meeting soon.

Problem

Fahmawi, who arrived from Tehran on Wednesday, refused to give details of what he called a technical problem on where the meeting should be held. Its original venue was a border crossing-point near the Iraqi town of Khanaqin and the Iranian town of Qasr-e-Shir.

Fahmawi said that despite the postponement "there are no major problems and everything is under control" along the ceasefire line.

But he admitted that UN observers had not yet solved a dispute over Iraqi claims that Iran was flooding part of the border area.

BAHRAIN DIGEST

Bahrain's government wants more people to commute by state-owned buses

PUBLIC transportation in Bahrain has maintained a steady growth in spite of rapid rise in the number of private vehicles, particularly cars, over the last two decades. Ever since the government introduced public transportation basically in the form of buses two months before the country's independence in 1971, there has been a constant and increasing need for public buses as the number of the island's population increased substantially. In recent years, in view of startling rise of private cars and increasing traffic congestion throughout this small nation, the government has launched a campaign to encourage people to commute by the state-owned bus fleet.

Bahrain has more than 100,000 registered private cars and vehicles, almost one for every four resident — the highest in the region. In order to alleviate traffic and environment problems efforts have been under way to attract more residents to travel by modern and comfortable state-owned buses. These buses travel to most routes in the island with increasing number of stopping points for the convenience of both urban and rural passengers.

Encouragement

According to a top government official the majority of passengers travelling by government buses comprise lower income expatriates.

Roshid Ali Al Janod, director of Public Transport, told the Arab Times in an interview that the aim of the government is to encourage more middle-income residents to commute by state buses which are not only economical but also convenient.

"We want to see more people travelling by state buses as it will be beneficial for all concerned, especially taking into account the enormous cost of cars these days. Travelling by bus is also a lot safer and helps avoid accidents," said Janod.

He said such a move would help to protect the environment and not just be profitable.

He emphasised that the development of public transportation in Bahrain has always been heavily dependent on the availability of funds and concern over environmental welfare. Budgetary constraints and priorities also affect plans of implementing new projects in this sector.

Air-conditioned buses

If all goes well Bahrain could have its first air-conditioned state buses by 1991, according to the director of Public Transport. He said the proposal, if approved by the government, will introduce a few air-conditioned buses on trial basis for passengers travelling long distances. Routes could include such major towns as Muharraq, Hamad Town and other far-off destinations.

As part of future development plans to improve the quality and service of public transportation some state buses could run on liquefied natural gas (LNG) if things work out. At the moment we have agreed to do this on principle," said Janod.

Resources

He stated that the government could also decide to opt for low sulphur diesel, which though expensive, could be acceptable in the long term.

"Our policy is to optimise our service with available resources," he added.

At present the Public Transport Directorate comprises a total fleet of 88 buses, out of which 50 are in daily use. Load factor is around 80 per cent, carrying on average 240,000 passengers daily. There are a total of 425 government bus stops in the island and 120 shelters. Bahrainis comprise almost 100 per cent of the 400 staff in the public transportation service.

225 houses distributed in Qurain

THE Public Authority for Housing distributed 225 houses of the first batch at Qurain Housing Project on the occasion of concluding Kuwait's 28th National Day celebrations. The distribution of houses was patronised by the State Minister for Housing Affairs, Naser Abdullah Al Roudhan.

Roudhan was represented by the authority's general director, Dr Ibrahim Majed Al Shahin who distributed memorial shields to the first ten citizens awarded Qurain houses.

Alterations

Farid Mishari Al Ojail, the assistant director for distribution and follow-up affairs said that Qurain Housing Project is one of the largest housing projects ever implemented by the authority. He urged citizens not to carry out any alterations without prior permission from the authority's maintenance office.

The Public Housing Authority will distribute 208 houses at Qurain project on March 8, 1989 and will distribute 430 remaining plots a few months later. Plots are ready for distribution, but gradual distribution is recommended to maintain the level of construction activities and maintain labour prices in the local market, the official said.

The authority will distribute a total of 1,500 houses at Qurain project this year and 110 houses of the last batch at Rabiah south project during the next two months. A total of 700 houses will also be distributed at Jahra Area No. 3, Ojail said.

Unhappy

E. Karumakara, who attended the meeting, said: "The Indian community is very unhappy with the performance of the embassy regarding the labour dispute."

An Indian diplomat has said intensive negotiations have been going on between the labourers, contractor, sub-contractors and Kuwaiti officials.

This is the third labour strike since the labourers came to Kuwait in August last year. The same project suffered another labour dispute in 1986/87, when the main contractor had sub-contracted the work to a Chinese company.

Phul said: "We don't believe in violence but everyone at the camp is running out of patience and something should be done to settle the dispute."

Training course

A COURSE on microfilms specially held for directors and sections heads since last Sunday concluded yesterday at the Computers and Microfilms Training Department of the Planning Ministry.

Abdul Latif Al Nami, director of Computers and Microfilms Training Department at the ministry speaking on the occasion, stressed the importance of microfilms and highlighted the department's developments in the field. Certificates were distributed among course participants.

Nami added that nearly 1,225 trainees participated in the technical courses and the practical and theoretical applications of microfilms.

Modern telephone network to be established

SALMAN Al Roumi, the Assistant Undersecretary of Communications for Technical Affairs, said that the ministry aims at establishing a modern telephone network, according to recommendations of the International Telecommunications Union.

The ministry is developing telephone services in housing areas that are served by Nuzha Central. A new central with a capacity of 30,000 lines has been transferred from the central communications building in Kuwait City to Nuzha Central for this purpose. The new electronic central in Riggai will start working next June with a capacity of 20,000 lines, the official said.

New centrals

He added that the old central in Riggai may be transferred to Jabriya Central which has a compatible system.

The ministry will build two new centrals one in Qurain and the other west of Fintas with a capacity of 20,000 lines each. Tenders will be published next month and work is expected to begin in 1991. The new central at Riggai will supply temporary telephone services to the two areas until the new centrals are installed there, Roumi said.

Post offices

Naser Al Jirawi, the Assistant Undersecretary of Communications and Postal Affairs, said that the ministry will open new post offices in some areas during this month. Roumi said that the postal department issued a new stamp to mark the occasion of Kuwait's 28th National Day.

The ministry is short of postmen which is attributed to low payments given to Kuwaitis. The ministry will offer 30,000 more post office boxes to the public which is expected to solve the problem.

Swindler arrested

SECURITY men have managed to arrest and turn over to the general prosecution a man charged with fraud and swindling three Kuwaitis in different public positions of KD300,000.

The man offered their partnership in an illusory project involving the construction of an underground tunnel in downtown Kuwait. He was arrested trying to flee the country.

كسب 100 مليون

Soviet soul

Red Army runs riot at Plaza

TV members of the Soviet Red Army Choir arrived in Kuwait on Thursday to "commemorate the 40th anniversary of the end of the Second World War" and on Friday night.

"We come in friendship, educating our folklore and social culture to the people of Kuwait," said the ensemble's director Victor Eliseev. He described their visit as a reflection of "perestroika" (openness) in the Soviet Union. That introduction began at the Plaza Hotel where the Red Army members rolled up the carpet, joined hands and started to dance. An interesting mini-demonstration of Russian and Armenian dances is given by the dancing robots for the Arab Times. The dancers leaped into mid-air and seemed to hang there for second longer than it was humanly possible before joining the others in the ground. He said there are 70 Army music and dance ensembles in the Soviet Union. The Red Army Choir, formed in 1973, is one of the first to be formed to promote "morale" among soldiers in the Army. Their performances were so well-received that they began touring around the world. The last foreign tour took them to Italy where they performed before Pope John Paul II.

The troupe began their Gulf tour in Kuwait. They will also perform in Qatar, Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Oman.

In Kuwait, they will perform at the Andalus Cinema. The high-spot of their performance will be Kuwait's National Anthem and an Arabic song, which the choir will sing.

All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telefax 223352 to Events Section or sent by hand to the office, except Thursday, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.



Clockwise: a leap in the air and down in style; dancers give a glimpse of what awaits the audience at tonight's show as a dancer swirls to a stop. (Pictures by Amer Jodid)

TV CORNER

This week on KTV 2

SUNDAY

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Dennis the Menace: cartoon serial
- 6.30 The Owl: a show for children
- 7.00 Scientific Eye: "River of Rock"

7.30 The Pursuit of Happiness: "Uphill Sking." Sarah plans a skiing holiday despite her father's opposition. Starring Brian Keith.

8.00 News in English

8.40 Magnum: "A Girl Named Sue." Private investigator Magnum is involved in intrigue after taking a case of murder. Starring Tom Selleck.

9.40 Dive to Adventure: nature

10.00 What's Happening Now: "Rodger's Big Break." Comedy.

10.30 Best-Seller: "Onassis: The Richest Man in the World." Part one.

11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Holy Quran/Closedown.

MONDAY

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Bionic Six: cartoon serial
- 6.30 Checky's Challenge: a device made by a team led by Albertine disappears, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

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Tareq Rajab Museum
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm; Fridays: 9 am to noon. Collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world.

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Contact
MARCH 11: The next meeting of the ladies information

Bug." Part two.

7.50 You and the Law
8.00 Matlock: "The Court Martial." Part 2. A soldier accused of murder disappears from a hearing. Starring: Andy Griffiths.

9.40 Menominee: more action with Hooperman as he tries to convince a man to give up crime.

10.10 Just for Laughs
10.30 Feature film: "Applause." Starring: Lauren Bacalla, Larry Hagman.

12.35 News Summary/followed by Magazine D'Actualite/Holy Quran/Closedown

THURSDAY

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 The Real Ghost Busters: cartoon serial.

6.30 Fairy Tale Theatre: "The Princess and the Pea."

7.30 Face to Face: local talk show hosted by Ali Noor.

8.00 News in English
8.40 The Oldest Rookie: "Come Fly With Me." Starring: Paul Sorvino.

9.40 Incredible Sunday: a miraculous recovery

and an incredible whale.

10.30 Late Night Movie: "Price of Justice." Starring: Telly Savalas, Kate Nelligan, Jack Thompson.

12.00 News Summary/followed by Magazine D'Actualite/Holy Quran/Closedown

FRIDAY

4.00 Holy Quran
4.10 The Sylvanian Family: new cartoon feature for children.

4.30 Italian Football
5.30 American Basketball
7.30 Star Trek: The New Generation: "Skin of Evil."

8.00 News in English
8.40 Breaking Away
8.55 Big League Soccer: Brian Moore introduces this sports show on English league games.

9.40 Weekend: local programme

10.00 The Charming: "A Charming Halloween." Comedy.

10.30 The Challenge: episode 2.

11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Holy Quran/Closedown

day and Wednesday. Yoga every Sunday and Tuesday from 8 pm to 9 pm and on Friday from 10.30 am to 11.30 am.

Swimming starts March 6-22, Saturdays, Mondays, Wednesdays. For details contact the hotel's recreation manager Colin Hall.

HOTELS

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BISTRETTO: A new Italian restaurant has been opened at the hotel. A selection of Italian dishes are offered in addition to international and local specialties prepared by Chef Peter D. Zobrist.

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Peacock Room: offers a wide variety of Chinese cuisine introduced by Chef Von Kwee Kiong.

The Clock Drive-In restaurant serves fast foods and daily specials.

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AL DALLAH coffee shop: breakfast buffet, lunch and dinner; also set menu; mini-business lunch.

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Lolouwah Corner: open from 10 pm, offering snacks and refreshments.

At the Ramada
AL BENDAR Coffee Shop offers Continental and Arabic

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 9.00 Holy Quran
- 9.15 Cartoon Serial
- 10.00 Al Madrasah Al Ajeebah (The Strange School): Arabic play for children
- 11.30 Cultural Film
- 12.15 English Feature Film
- 1.35 Al Tareeq Yatakkulum: A historical feature on Al Quds
- 2.20 Nelly's: cartoon serial
- 2.45 Noor Al Islam: religious programme
- 3.30 Zahrat Al Shawk: Arabic feature, starring Mahmoud Mursi, Zizi Badawi, Zuzi Nabil
- 6.00 Security and Citizens
- 6.30 Special programme on Morocco's National Day.

KTV 2

- 5.30 Holy Quran
- 5.40 Cartoons
- 6.00 Football: Al Nasr vs Al Qadsia
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.40 The Call of Islam: focusses on the experiences of people who embraced Islam in the UK.
- 9.30 National Geographic
- 10.30 Made-for-TV Movie: "A Time to Triumph"
- 12.15 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Holy Quran/Closedown.
- 01.00 News Summary
- 01.05 World News via Satellite
- 01.35 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

- 5.30 Holy Quran
- 5.40 Cartoons
- 6.00 Football: Al Nasr vs Al Qadsia
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.40 The Call of Islam: focusses on the experiences of people who embraced Islam in the UK.
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- 12.15 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Holy Quran/Closedown.

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

- 0600 Newdesk
- 30 Personal View
- 45 Recording of the Week
- 0100 News Summary followed by Outlook (ex 25th Gebze and Guelma)
- 25 Financial News (ex 25th)
- 30 Classical Record Review (ex 25th)
- 45 Book Choice
- 50 New Ideas
- 0200 World News
- 09 British Press Review
- 15 Network UK
- 30 People and Politics
- 0300 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 The World Today
- 30 The Vintage Chart Show
- 0400 Newdesk
- 30 Here's Humph
- 45 Personal View
- 0500 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Financial News
- 40 Words of Faith
- 45 The World Today
- 0600 Newdesk
- 30 Meridian
- 0700 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 From the Weeklies
- 45 Network UK
- 0800 World News
- 09 Words of Faith
- 15 Jolly Good Show
- 0900 World News
- 09 British Press Review
- 15 The World Today
- 30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup

English

- 0600 Opening/Easy Listening
- 0830 News
- 0840 Easy Listening
- 1000 Songs and Music
- 1200 Arabic Songs and Music
- 1300 Easy Listening
- 1330 News on FM Service
- 1400 Classical Music
- 1600 Spanish hour
- 1700 Arabic Songs and Music
- 1800 Pops
- 2130 News
- 2145 Pops
- 2200 Indian Classical Hour
- 2300 Easy Listening
- 2400 Instrumental Listening
- 0200 Closedown

FM Services

- MORNING
- 0800 Opening
- 0802 Songs and Music
- 0830 News in English
- 0840 Songs and Music
- 0845 Daily Programme
- 0900 Cultural Horizon
- 0930 Reggae Rock
- 1000 Our Press Today
- 1005 Songs and Music
- 1100 Closedown
- EVENING
- 2100 Opening
- 2102 Kuwait
- 2130 News
- 2145 Point of View
- 2155 Songs and Music
- 2200 Kuwait in a Week
- 2215 Rock On
- 2245 Daily Programme
- 2300 Strictly Romantic
- 2330 Amazing Fact
- 2400 Closedown

NIGHT CHEMIST

- Kuwait**
Al Hafez Pharmacy
Al Bahar Bldg, Souk Wagef, Salwa Al Din St.
Al Sharkiya Pharmacy
Mawassalat Bldg., Hilali St.
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Shamsan Pharmacy
Jbn Khalid St.
Salsbiya and Rumailiya
Phoenix Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak St.
Fahad and Almasadi
Al Wafa Pharmacy
Dabbous Palace, Dabbous St.
Khalifa
Al Wabla Pharmacy
Main St.
Jahra
Al Najah Pharmacy
Badr Sumait Bldg., Area 4

CINEMA TODAY

- Al Andalus**
Red Army concert
- Al Salmiya**
People's theatre performance
- Al Hamra**
Al Khatem (Arabic)
Starring: Nelli, Samir Sabri, Jalal Sharqawi
- Drive-in**
Mo'Alimah Samah (Arabic)
Starring: Madiha Kamel, Ezzat Alaili, Muna Abdul Ghani

- Al Fahheel**
Aaranyakam (Malayalam)
- Al Jahra**
Gharraam Afia'ai (Arabic)
- Granada**
Mag Wheels
- Salsbiya**
Gharraam Afia'ai (Arabic)
- Al Jebel**
Urban Warriors
- Ahmad Drive-in**
Metal Storm

PRAYERS

- Fajr 4.51 am
- Zuhr 12.00
- Asr 3.20 pm
- Maghreb 5.50
- Isha 7.06

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group will be held at 10 am at the Messilah Beach Hotel. Please note change of venue. For details call 3720197; 4874513; 5388105.

SPORTS

Thim Centre
MARCH 4/5: The Thim Centre will hold its second annual one-day seven-a-side football festival at Al Soor Grounds. This will be followed by their second inter-village nine-a-side football tournament, beginning April 8. For details contact organisers.

Fun Run
MARCH 17: 30 km fun run for teams of 4 at Messilah Beach Hotel. Commences at 10 am. Registration is strictly limited. For details call Hugh McAree — 5326368 or Jon Evans — 5339867.

Carom Tournament
MARCH 5: A memorial carom tournament will be held in Farwasiya. To take part call Fernandes: 2423690, 9 am to 12.30 pm or contact Babit at Al Soor ground on Friday morning.

Danish Darts Tournament
MARCH 17: Daniella invites all Danes to take part in a darts tournament. It will be held from 4 pm at Gazelle Club. Please register before March 8. Tel: Annette — 3723413; Inglise 3715637.

Aerobic/Yoga/Swimming
AT Kuwait International Hotel: Aerobics for ladies from 6 to 7 pm every Saturday, Mon-

day and Wednesday. Yoga every Sunday and Tuesday from 8 pm to 9 pm and on Friday from 10.30 am to 11.30 am.

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AL BENDAR Coffee Shop offers Continental and Arabic

buffets for breakfast, lunch and dinner, 6 am to midnight; a la carte available.

Thursday's is BBQ Night at Le Mirage Night Club, with full buffet and entertainment by the Al Arz Band.

The Friday Family Brunch introduces cartoon characters on the ship's discovery; train tour of the hotel's garden and waterfront.

The Marina Takeaway Counter features a selection of sandwiches and snacks, 4 pm to 11 pm.

At the Continental
GARDENIA: 7 am to midnight; buffets featuring Arabic, Continental and Indian food. Special buffet for Thursday dinner and Friday lunch. Dabbar: daily Indian lunch buffet, except Friday; a la carte dinner.

At the Meridian
EVERY Thursday is Jam Session at La Brasserie, music by Remy D'Mello; sea food buffet and lots of fun. Family fun on Fridays with oriental buffet and musical entertainment.

At the Pullman
ELYSEES Restaurant offers gourmet French meal; Al Shaffal Coffee Shop features international and Arabic cuisine with live entertainment.

At the Messilah Beach
MUBARAKIYAH Restaurant: Open 24 hours, buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner and snacks. Sundays: Ladies Day; Mondays: birthday special; Fridays: special buffet "a go go."

FAR EAST FURNITURE EXHIBITION (Chinese)

See for yourself: our wonderful new collection at

فندق كويت انترناشيونال
Kuwait International Hotel
till 16th March

Traditional Rosewood Furniture
Beautiful silk and woollen carpets,
Decorative Arts and Handicrafts.

We invite you all on this occasion to view our
New Collection
All items at unbeatable prices

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

TO be conscious that you are ignorant is a great step to knowledge — Benjamin Disraeli, English statesman (1804-1881).

A thorn in the neck removed

By Dalia Ballig

TABA, Israeli-held Sinai, (AP): Egypt and Israel are talking about warmer relations after the amicable end of their last border dispute, but difficult obstacles remain to true friendship between the Middle Eastern neighbours.

Uppermost are the unresolved and festering Palestinian issue as well as the traditional enmity that has involved the countries in four wars since Israel's birth 41 years ago.

Almost seven years of often bitter negotiations, exacerbated by outside events like Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, ended Sunday night with a series of agreements giving back to Egypt this 250-acre (1 sq km) beach enclave occupied by Israel since 1967.

The agreements signed at the plush Aviya-Sonesta Beach Hotel, the only major structure in Taba, is to remove all vestiges of Israeli control by noon March 15. The documents implement an international arbitration panel's ruling last September that settled the key point, a border marker's location, and proved Egyptian ownership of the enclave.

Israel withdrew under a US-brokered agreement from the rest of the captured Sinai peninsula in April 1982 but laid claim to Taba and refused to surrender it.

"We've fought hard to get Taba back, and now we've won," a senior Egyptian official said after Sunday night's signing. "The Israeli government expects an immediate flow of visitors between the two countries and joint projects, but there's too much holding this back."

"Despite the peace treaty, there is still no wish to visit Israel among Egyptians, many of whom have bitter memories of the Arab-Israeli wars. There's also the Palestinian issue... there's deep disagreement on that."

Egypt, the other Arab nations and the Palestine Liberation Organization agree that the United Nations should organize an international peace conference with PLO participation to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict. Israel demurs on ground such a conference would be prejudiced against the Jewish state and that it never will negotiate with the

Sudan's rebels now on a winning streak

By Hamza Hendawi

KHARTOUM, (Reuters): Sudan's once rag-tag rebels are on the offensive in the hostile bush and treacherous swamps of the south against ill-equipped government troops who are eating cats and rats to survive.

In six years of war the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has become a formidable fighting force whose battlefield successes are shaking the corridors of power in faraway Khartoum.

The rebels, who outnumber the 12,000 regular soldiers based in the south three-to-one, have captured at least eight garrison towns since September.

"There are just not enough supplies to sustain a battle. They don't have enough food or ammunition," a defence expert said, spelling out the difficulties facing the Sudanese Army.

"Some soldiers have to feed on cats and rats to survive."

Halt
Diplomats and defence experts attached to Western and Arab embassies in Khartoum say the rebel push may be impossible to halt without Sudan receiving massive foreign aid.

They said at least four more Army-held garrisons — Akobo, Bor, Nimule and Rumbek — were under siege and likely to fall soon.

"These guys can only take so much pounding," said one defence expert, adding that desertions were widespread in some units.

On Monday the rebels said they had captured the town of Torit in Equatoria region and their next target was Juba, south Sudan's largest town.

The SPLA, armed and aided by Ethiopia and Eastern bloc states, has been fighting since

PLO.

At Sunday night's signing ceremony, both negotiating principals and their American mediator stressed the importance of dialogue to bring peace to the troubled Middle East.

Return
Nabil El Araby, head of Egypt's Taba delegation, said the agreement "fully and finally" return Taba to Egypt and expressed hope that "a new chapter" is starting, leading to comprehensive Middle East peace.

Reuven Merhav, Israeli Foreign Ministry director-general, urged that all involved build on the agreements.

"We in Israel are both hopeful and confident that it will be soon followed by other treaties and settlements, since this process of negotiations is the only possible path to obtain a lasting achievement of peace," he said.

Israel wants head-to-head negotiations with the Arab states similar to those the United States sponsored with Egypt that led in 1979 to the Arab world's first and only peace treaty with Israel. Most other Arabs ostracized Cairo to protest the treaty, but relations slowly returned to normal under President Hosni Mubarak's careful nurturing.

But as the Taba problem has persisted, normalization between Egypt and Israel has proceeded slowly. Relations generally have remained cool, sometimes worse.

Tourism
Tourism basically is one-way. Tens of thousands of Israelis pour into Egypt, the only neighbouring country where they officially are welcome, but only a handful of Egyptians visit Israel. In addition to lingering dislike, security officials insist on prior clearance of Egyptians travelling to Israel and issuance of special passports valid only for that country.

Joint trade agreements and exchanges in culture and the economy have not flourished. The Israelis complain that Egyptian media treat them with hostility.

Egypt recalled its ambassador to protest Israel's Lebanon adventures and kept the post vacant for years. The Egyptians condemn Israel's policies in occupied Arab territories. Cairo has hammered on Israel's anti-PLO policies and its refusal to accept a UN peace conference.

1983 in the Christian and animist south to end what it sees as the rule of a Muslim minority clique in Khartoum.

But the diplomats said that the SPLA, whose men are mainly drawn from the large Dinka tribe, did not have the manpower or the administrative expertise to set up quasi-government institutions in areas under its control.

The Sudanese Army, publicising its problems for the first time since the war broke out, said last week that foreign aid to its 60,000 men was virtually non-existent.

"Our combat abilities have been reduced by 50 per cent since 1983. We did not lose territory through a fault of ours," a military statement said last week.

The statement contained an ultimatum to Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi to introduce reforms.

It said, however, Army leaders were determined to win the war despite the recent string of defeats.

Mahdi, rejecting criticism that his government was not doing enough for the Army, sent a delegation to neighbouring Libya in search of arms which returned on Sunday saying Tripoli had agreed to the request.

Arms

The diplomats said China, which has in the past few years emerged as a major arms supplier to Sudan, has also agreed to arms requests during a visit to Beijing last week by Interior Minister Mubarak Al Fadel Al Mahdi.

They said Iraq, Jordan and Egypt were supplying small quantities of arms to Sudan.

Mahdi told parliament on Monday that a huge shipment of arms was on its way to Sudan. He said it included warplanes, artillery, tanks, armoured personnel carriers and rocket launchers.

Soviets trying to move in

ARAB-US relations are witnessing a period of decline, according to an international Arab official.

The decision-making official said that there are disputes regarding the role that the Bush administration can play in the Middle East crisis.

US President Bush announced that he is not in a hurry to make efforts to end the Middle East crisis. He also said that the mission of the Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to the region is not a setback for US efforts in the Middle East.

Unable

The Arab official said that in fact the American President seems unable to take a firm decision in this respect and is trying to hide his inability by claiming that he does not want to make any hasty decisions.

Commenting on the relationship between the United States and Arab countries, the official stressed that the nature of inter-

Arab-US relations at a critical stage

national relations including Arab ties is no longer governed by alliances or blocs.

This means that international relations are no longer controlled by traditional values and ideas that considered Moscow one centre of influence with its satellite countries rotating around it, and Washington as the other. This traditional thinking has been totally and permanently cancelled by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's revolution.

Vital
This two-sphere thinking has been abolished to the extent that Washington can no longer distinguish between countries within its own sphere and those of the Soviet Union's.

International relations are now established on the basis of self-interest. Accordingly, both

Washington and Moscow can speak the same language with regards to the rest of the world, the Arab decision-making official said.

According to this understanding, Israel in the eyes of the United States is no longer the important and vital "fortress in the prairie" that must be protected from the attacks of Red Indians — who are the Arabs in this case. In the same way, the Arabs are no more the Soviet card that can be used to pressure US interests in the Middle East by threatening Israel.

Simply stated, everything in the region — and perhaps in the whole world — has turned topsy-turvy, according to the Arab official. This becomes paramount when we realise that Gorbachev pulled the Soviet

Union within permissible borders and limits provided by the Yalta treaty at the end of World War II, leaving behind all advanced centres — from Angola in the West to Afghanistan in the East, the official said.

Restored
He added that it was this withdrawal which restored credibility to the Yalta treaty and smothered the spark of conflict between the two superpowers.

Continuing, he said that the region should prepare itself to adopt a new creative policy that does away with the old standards including political attitudes by Israel. The Soviet Union is showing the maximum amount of flexibility to this new position. It appears that the Soviets plan to do this through their perestroika programme for reforms.

Shevardnadze has called for stronger relations with Israel. Further, the Soviets are striving to convene an Arab-Israeli summit to debate the peace process in the Middle East.

Arab decision-makers say that the Soviet policy has raised fear among many Arab countries — not towards the peace process and its future in the region, but over the active resumption of the Soviet Union's activities in the Middle East arena. This resumption was supposed to be impossible as long as the arena was subject to American dominance, the Arab official said.

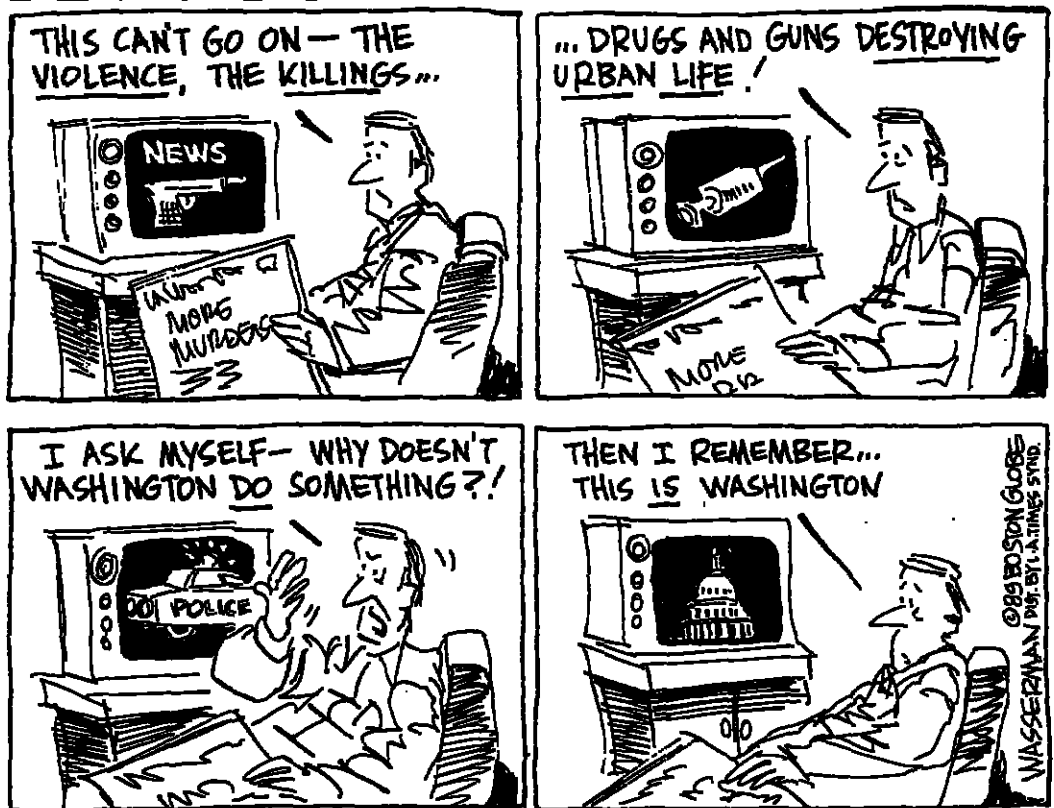
Consensus

The general consensus among Arab decision-makers is that the current American administration policies have left a big gap in the area which the Soviets con-

sider as a golden opportunity for them to fill in and move forward.

Arab-American relations are at a critical stage. There does not seem to be much optimism towards developing Palestinian-American dialogue or defusing the Lebanese crisis. It seems also futile to believe that the Americans will concur with European nations towards holding a peace conference to pressure Israel to positively respond to international calls for peace, the official said.

This existing scenario has caused the Soviets to move vigorously into the region, and will stay this way as long as the Bush administration remains moribund in the face of deteriorating Arab-American relations, the Arab official added.



By Charlotte Salkowak

WASHINGTON: When George Bush left the White House briefing room after his first official press conference reporters were fairly impressed. The President was relaxed, funny, informative, co-operative. He knew people's names. He fielded questions for 42 minutes — longer than any Reagan encounter with Washington's voracious journalists.

He showed himself to be in touch with almost everyone that asked questions," commented Matthew Quinn of the Hearst Newspapers after the event. "He's using accessibility to show that he has his hands on everything. That helps him and it's good for us, because it helps illuminate the public."

That relief felt by the news media after the Reagan era is palpable. The Reagan White House elevated orchestration of the news to an unparalleled height. President Reagan himself held only 48 formal televised news conferences during eight years and gave the media less access than many previous chief executives. His unfamiliarity with facts and tendency to stumble in public appearances prompted his media handlers to keep to a minimum anything but carefully scripted events.

Yet in a tour de force of media manipulation, the White House created and sustained an effective image of presidential presence and leadership.

Aberration
While pleased at the style of openness and accessibility that Bush is setting early in his presidency, veteran reporters remind themselves that the Reagan era was really an aberration. What is happening now is a return to something more normal and should not seem so unex-

Bush impresses media

pected. "Reagan so lowered our standards that we think this is something wonderful," remarks Carl Leubsdorf of the Dallas Morning News. "Only Reagan needed to have cue cards and seating lists — otherwise, politicians know people's names and how to answer questions."

As the President deftly wows the press in these early weeks, media specialists note that any president has to manipulate the media, since they are his conduit to the public. Bush is no exception. During the campaign Bush was compelled to counter the public image that he was a "wimp." Hence his negative ads against Democratic opponent Michael Dukakis and the Rambo-like image he sought to project. He kept the press at bay.

Now Bush is embarked on another phase, say media experts, trying to show he is a half-fellow-well-met and cares about the needs of the press. "Clearly he has decided to use Reagan as a foil, for he knows what irritated the press about Reagan," says S. Robert Lichter, co-director of the Centre for Media and Public Affairs. "So he's giving them access, making things more informal, and saying he likes them and is 'one of the fellows'."

Controversies
As long as there are no policy controversies or criticisms of his programmes (still to be announced), it all seems to be working well for Bush. Countless stories have appeared about his efforts to give the press more access and to be more forthcoming. But few observers in Washington say the honeymoon will last. At the first major White House mistake, the adversarial, if respectful, relationship that naturally exists between press and president will quickly emerge.

"It's easy to meet on friendly terms when there's no record to defend," says Stephen Hess, a media analyst at the Brookings Institution. "But when you get the first leak or scandal, the press looks less attractive."

Before that happens, Bush appears to be storing up capital with the news media. "The question is whether he will build a residue of good will that will carry him through the crises," Lichter says. "He's trying to build up a buffer so when the fall comes he'll have something soft to land on."

Relations
Comments Martha Kumar, a media specialist at Towson State University: "There's a tendency of political figures to look at relations in personal terms. But that will not matter — it's what Bush does. When things later on, he'll try to establish the good old times."

Dr Kumar points out that unlike Reagan, who had been an executive much of his life and whose public statements were marked by clarity and simplicity, Bush is trying to present himself as someone different from a vice-president or a department head. So he is creating a different kind of style, one less interested in offending people and wanting to be more of a "healer."

The President's openness and unostentatious style is being worked on members of Congress as well the press. One news report quotes him as telling lawmakers to call him "George." Whether such familiarity suits the office and benefits Bush in the long run is open to question, however.

"If you strip the presidency of its mystique, no one will listen to you," Kumar says. "Carter learned that."

For the moment Bush is ingratiating himself around town — not least of all with journalists. A variety of formats are being tried out, including visits in the Oval Office with two or three reporters at a time, unscheduled appearances in the White House briefing room, and what are expected to be full-dress televised press conferences in prime time.

In his press conference on Jan 27, Bush quickly showed that he understood reporters' interest in follow-up questions. At one point he stopped to interject, "What would be the fair and noble way to handle follow-up questions as we do these things? Would it be good to have them or not have them?"

"There should be two follow-ups," one reporter shot back. "Yes, one follow-up," shouted another.

After some banter back and forth, the President insisted: "No, seriously, ... I want some advice."

He got it. "Come back every day!" cried a voice.

The Christian Science Monitor.

Challenges for East and West

Life won't be the same after eroding of 'iron curtain'

By Patrick Worsnip

LONDON, (Reuters): The quickening pace of change in Eastern Europe is beginning to erode the "iron curtain" that has divided the continent for four decades.

But any collapse of the old order that was tacitly agreed at the US-Soviet-British Yalta Conference in 1945 could pose almost as many challenges for the capitalist West as for the communist East, experts believe.

"The West has been living comfortably for the past 40 years: East is East and West is West and nothing can be done about it. Well now, I think something can be done about it," says George Schoepflin of the London School of Economics.

The front-runner in the drive for reform in the Soviet bloc is Hungary which has twinned economic moves to throw off the shackles of central planning with a programme of major law reforms due to restore the possibility of a multi-party system suppressed by the communists after World War II.

Guarantee

Last week, the ruling Socialist Workers (Communist) Party agreed to drop its present guarantee of a leading role for the communist party in Eastern Europe — when a new constitution is published this year.

Poland, where the communists have long faced determined resistance from the Roman Catholic Church and, over the past decade, from the independent Solidarity trade union, is also embracing change, though less boldly than Hungary.

In crucial talks with Solidarity, now expected to regain legal status after a six-year ban, the authorities have agreed to give the opposition up to 40 per cent of seats in parliament, to allow independent political clubs and legalise underground jour-

nals. Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria have launched economic reform programmes without giving any real sign of relaxing political control. Romania and East Germany say they see no need for any shift of course.

The changes under way are largely inspired by the radical new policies of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who is trying to make his country's unwieldy economy more competitive and partially democratised public life.

Elections next month will, for the first time, feature a choice of officially approved candidates, though Gorbachev has dismissed as rubbish any idea of a multi-party system.

Officials from both sides of Europe are wondering just how far the reformist leadership will go. Even if their political will holds, the East European economies are simply not strong enough to compete in a free-market system, officials and experts agree.

In Hungary, many analysts say, the communists look set to hold on to power — at least for a transitional period — after elections next year, possibly on the basis of a pact with the disorganised and fractious opposition.

Democracy

But in the second half of the 1990s, could there be a fully Western-style democracy in Hungary? "It's possible," says Karen Dawisha of the University of Maryland. "If any country can do it, Hungary can."

Analysts say the Soviet Union no longer seems interested in suppressing changes in Eastern Europe, as it did in Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968.

"As the moment the Soviets are content to allow things to run on without feeling the need to

intervene too directly, provided their vital interests are not threatened," a Western diplomat said. "But," he added, "we are finding it increasingly difficult to define what those vital interests are."

In a statement prominently reported in Budapest, a leading Soviet political scientist, Oleg Bogomolov, said recently that even if Hungary opted for politically neutral status "that would not present a danger — precisely because of its neutrality."

Despite this, most Western experts see no prospect of Hungary attempting to leave the Warsaw Pact.

Headaches
But East Europe's slow shift away from cold war attitudes, coupled with major Soviet disarmament initiatives and the prospect of negotiated force cuts in a few years time by NATO and the Warsaw Pact are already causing headaches for the West.

West Germany, whose public sees a declining military threat from the Soviet Union, is holding back on the modernisation of NATO's tactical nuclear weapons and opening a rift with the United States and Britain who want to press ahead.

Europe, it has coincided with the continent's longest period of peace for many centuries. Suppose that division fell away?

"There are risks. One doesn't want to rush into it," a Western diplomat said.

Problems
One medium-term possibility that analysts are increasingly raising is that Hungary might seek to join the European Economic Community. An application from a Warsaw Pact member would pose problems for Brussels, as EEC membership so far has been limited to West European democracies.

Anger over US Navy captain's court martial

more difficult," said the letter, submitted as evidence.

"Each message in response to our request for guidance and direction started with: 'Do not take them aboard under any circumstances except...'"

Balian, at a news conference after Friday's verdict said he would appeal and accused senior officers of making him a scapegoat.

Promotion
The officer told reporters his conviction would preclude him from promotion to admiral and from earning command of another ship. He would be moving to Washington next month to start a new assignment as chief of staff at the Navy's telecommunications command.

"But that's not what I'm in the Navy for," he said. "I am a seagoing sailor."

Master chief petty officer Alvin Harris, who has served under Balian, described him as a "top gun" in a letter to the defence lawyer and said the court martial was a mistake.

"I have never understood the Navy's political reactions by sacrificing their people," he said.

Another retired fellow officer, Captain Robert Christen, said a commanding officer of his had once picked up two men believed to be people seeking refuge, but was reprimanded later for having done so.

The US Navy requires its ships to render adequate assistance to refugees found at sea. It does not require: they be picked up unless their boat is unseaworthy; there are sick or injured on board or the refugees are in danger of dying.

Christen, who said he had been involved in rescuing boat people since 1975 when the US military,

defeated in Vietnam, evacuated tens of thousands of Vietnamese, said formal and informal rules on the rescue of refugees were ambiguous.

Balian, who was awarded the Silver Star for heroism and a Purple Heart after being wounded in combat in Vietnam, said months after encountering the junk he had made a mistake in not picking them up.

He said his crew had wrongly informed him about the condition of the Vietnamese because of poor communication, bad translations by a Vietnamese sailor on the Dubuque and a series of mistakes.

"It was a tragedy of errors," he told CBS American television network in an interview.

Balian, in a written statement made available by his lawyers before the court martial began on Feb 10, compared his situation to that of Captain Will Rogers of the Vincennes, the US warship which shot down an Iranian civilian airliner killing all 290 people on board.

A Defence Department probe cleared Rogers, saying his crew had made mistakes and that Rogers had decided to shoot down the plane based on the information available to him.

Blame

The refugees who made it to the Philippines said Balian's men saved their lives. They blamed themselves and up to 50 merchant ships who passed them by after they encountered the Dubuque for the murder and cannibalism that took place.

In a letter to US ambassador Nicholas Platt in Manila, 21 of the refugees asked that Balian who was relieved of his command last summer during initial naval investigations, be reinstated.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1606 — France's King Henry IV occupies Sedan to end rebellion of Duke of Bouillon.

1632 — Sweden's King Gustavus II resumes his palatine campaign.

1797 — British troops under Lord Lake quell rebellion in Ulster, Ireland.

1848 — Constitution of Piedmont and Sardinia is proclaimed by Charles Albert, King of Sardinia.

1857 — Peace of Paris ends Anglo-Persian war, and Shah recognizes independence of Afghanistan.

1917 — German Army begins major withdrawal on western front in World War I.

1945 — Soviet troops reach Baltic Sea in drive across Germany's province of Pomerania.

1952 — China accuses United States of using germ warfare in Korea.

1965 — Syria orders nationalization of nine oil companies, including affiliates of two US concerns.

1970 — French submarine with 57 aboard is lost in Mediterranean sea off the Riviera.

1972 — Soviet Union signs agreement with Libya to jointly develop and refine Libyan oil, a pact seen as a pressure tactic against Western oil companies.

1973 — Eight Black September terrorists end their occupation of Saudi Arabian Embassy in Khartoum, Sudan, after slaying three foreign diplomats.

1977 — Earthquake devastates Bucharest and other towns in Romania, and death toll eventually reaches more than 1,000.

1968 — Sikh separatists slaughter dozens of Hindus at religious festival in Kari Sri, India.

Handwritten signature: 100150

Sheena Easton's new image wows the fans!

A fresh-faced 20-year-old is now a 30-year-old vamp with flame-red hair, dramatic make-up and miniskirts, but the fame and fortune are hers in America, much-wanted No. 1 hit still eludes her in her native country.

by Molloy

SIZED singer Sheena Easton has returned home to after taking America by storm. But the sexy, Scots lass sn't had the number one hit that she craves.

High in the charts with over in Me Sheena has to keep returning to until her dream comes

just to make sure she gets it right, Sheena now has a new image and an

due out in March, written by Prince.

Sheena was rumoured to be in an affair after Sugar, a record sung by Sheena written by Prince, was banned from too sexy.

Then Sheena's image has even sexier. Any resemblance to the fresh-faced 20-year-old who shot to fame with his to 5 and Modern Girl, has lately disappeared.

her place is a 30-year-old with flame red hair, dramatic make-up and tiny mini-

albums go platinum, she out 25,000 seater stadiums. even had a short spell as a lion star playing Don John-

wife in Miami Vice. it though she is now the very

ice of success in America she "The one thing I'd love to

is to hit in England. America Japan put the roof over my

l, the food on my table and gas in my car, but a hit in land would be the feather in

ap.

Ego

My ego would like the recognition. So I'll always come over TV and to promote my records. I've asked about reports that she's not care about England, she has made it big overseas, snarls: "It's nonsense to suggest that just because I'm doing

well in America I no longer care about what is going on in England."

What of the new image and sexually explicit songs? Sheena says: "A lot of the lyrics in my songs and in everyone else's refer to sexuality. With Sugar Walls I just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. So the censorship committee picked it out."

"I had never wanted to go out on stage in a long sequined ball gown and do an hour's worth of ballads."

That's obvious when you see Sheena's poster for the promotion of her single. She is seductively dressed in black lingerie, a far cry from the pastel coloured jump suits she used to wear.

She says: "It is a strident, sexy song and I would not be doing my job right if I came across as anything other than feisty and hot blooded. I'm not in the least embarrassed or ashamed of it."

Uninhibited

Being uninhibited comes naturally to Sheena. But close friends have reported that since finding stardom she has become "difficult". They say success has gone to her head and she has developed a passionate obsession for rival Madonna.

Danny Francis, Sheena's minder for four years said "Sheena was so jealous of Madonna that she ordered her name should never be mentioned and her records never played."

But Sheena retorts: "Rubbish. I happen to be a huge fan of Madonna. And as for being difficult, I have a reputation for not compromising and some people call that being difficult."

"If I believe strongly that something is right then I won't give in just to make someone else happy."

And reports of her affair with Prince are laughed off. She says: "The papers made it all up. My



Sheena Easton

mother used to ring me up with reports of what I was meant to be doing and I would just die laughing. We are just good friends, that's all."

Sheena, discovered when she appeared on BBC TV's The Big Time, while still at drama school in Scotland, recently returned to acting, as Don Johnson's wife for four episodes of Miami Vice. She has now won recognition in Hollywood.

She says: "I felt 15 again. It was like starting over. I thought, What if I'm really terrible? What if I'm so bad everybody dies laughing? Then I figured, 'I'm not Meryl Streep and this is not Sophie's Choice. It's something within my scope.'"

She says: "I was supposed to be killed off in the fourth episode. I was really looking forward to having blood trickling from my mouth as I croaked: 'Sonny, don't forget me.'"

Instead, because of rocketing ratings, Sheena's character was written out with an opening for her return.

She says: "People can see now that good, bad or indifferent... I can act. Already a reaction within the Hollywood community. At last I can see I'm being taken seriously."

Career

However, twice divorced Sheena has not had as much luck with her love life as with her television career. She admits: "I was married at 19 but in my head I never was. I don't even remember what he looked like."

"We were married for just eight months. I've been with boys longer since then."

Sheena's marriage ended just after she found fame. Then came her wedding to Hollywood booking agent Rob Light. That ended after just 18 months.

She says: "When we married I



Being uninhibited comes naturally to Sheena Easton.

still believed that love was enough... now I don't. Sure it's the main thing but you do need a lot more besides."

"I may get married again and I'd love to have kids. I hope I'd be a good mother. I've certainly had a good example in my own mother but I would not want hundreds of kids — just two would do me fine."

"I think I could give a child a good life and love it well. And I'm not one of those women who could never have a child without being married. I'd have one without being married. No qualms about it."

But at the moment Sheena lives alone, though she does have a new love in her life, musician

Michael Des Barres. Home is a 1930s house set high in the Hollywood hills. She says: "It is a nice big house. But most of all it's home. It's not some showpiece."

"If I want I can spend Saturday night at home reading. I can take the day off, go to the park with my dogs, eat pizza and ice-cream, or just lie in the bathtub. I can call up friends and head for a club or a restaurant and stay out till four in the morning. It is my choice."

And while she spends her days, either strutting around a stage driving audiences wild or relaxing in the warm California sun, she still holds her dream of recognition in the country that discovered her.

Debbie Gibson retains US top spot

NEW YORK, (AP): Lost in Your Eyes kept Debbie Gibson at the top of the single pop record charts in the United States for the second week in a row.

Sheena Easton's The Lover in Me hopped up one notch to second place on the Cash Box magazine chart, while Paula Abdul's Straight Up slipped from second to third.

Climbing fast on the top 10 list was The Living Years by Mike and the Mechanics, up from 11th to 7th.

Two other newcomers to the list this week were Paradise City by Guns n' Roses, up from 12th to 9th, and Ruff by Bobby Brown, up from 14th to 10th.

As for the country-and-western singles, Eddy Raven's 'Til You Cry took over as number one on the Cash Box magazine chart. Tanya Tucker's Highway Robbery was second, and "I Still Believe in You" by the Desert Rose Band was third.

Top Ten US

The top 10 singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

- (1) Lost in Your Eyes — Debbie Gibson (Atlantic)
- (2) The Lover in Me — Sheena Easton (MCA)
- (3) Straight Up — Paula Abdul (Virgin)
- (4) You Got It — New Kids on the Block (Columbia)
- (5) Born to be my Baby — Don Jovi (Mercury-Polygram)
- (6) What I Am — Eddie Brickett and the New Bohemians (Geffen)
- (7) The Living Years — Mike and the Mechanics (Atlantic)
- (8) She Wants to Dance With Me — Rick Astley (RCA)
- (9) Paradise City — Guns n' Roses (Geffen)
- (10) Ruff — Bobby Brown (MCA)



Debbie Gibson: No. 1 in USA



Yazz slipped to tenth place in UK

n' Roses (Geffen). 10. (14) Ruff — Bobby Brown (MCA).

The top 10 country-western singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

- (1) 'Til You Cry — Eddy Raven (RCA)
- (2) Highway Robbery — Tanya Tucker (Capitol)
- (3) I Still Believe in You — The Desert Rose Band (MCA-Curb)
- (4) Honey I Dare You — Southern Pacific (Warner Brothers)
- (5) Don't You Ever Get Tired (Of Hurting Me) — Ronnie Milsap (RCA)
- (6) I Sang Dixie — Dwight Yoakam (Warner Brothers-Repertoire)
- (7) From a Jack to a King — Ricky van Shelton (Columbia)
- (8) Bridges and Walls — The Oak Ridge Boys (MCA)
- (9) I Wish I Was Still in Your Dreams — Conway Twitty (MCA)
- (10) New Fool at an Old Game — Reba McEntire (MCA)

And in London, Belfast Child by the Scottish group Simple Minds topped the British pop singles chart for the third straight week, while Sam Brown's Stop edged up to second place.

Michael Jackson's Leave Me Alone slipped one place to third ahead of Love Changes Everything by Michael Ball.

The only newcomers in the top 10 were Help by Bananarama in fifth place and Hey Music Lover S'Xpress in sixth.

Top Ten UK

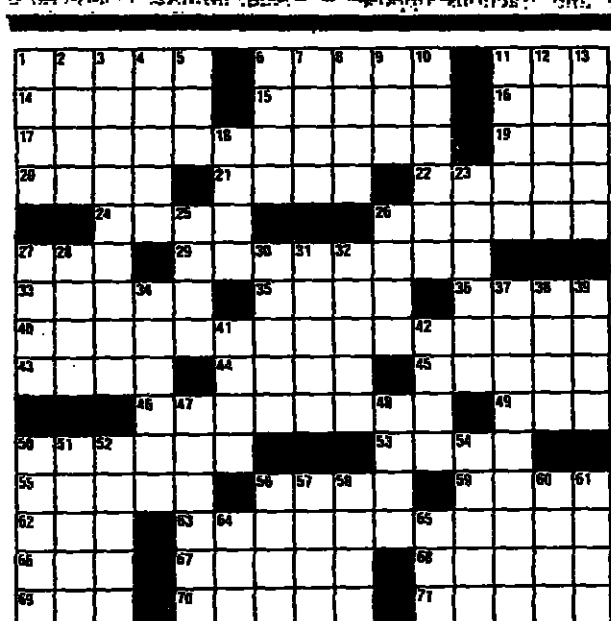
This week's top 10 singles, as listed by Our Price Music Ltd., the national music retail chain, with last week's placings in parenthesis:

- (1) Belfast Child — Simple Minds (Virgin)
- (3) Stop — Sam Brown (A and M)
- (2) Leave Me Alone — Michael Jackson (Epic)
- (6) Love Changes Everything — Michael Ball (Really Useful)
- (14) Help — Bananarama (London)
- (21) Hey Music Lover — S'Xpress (Rhythm King)
- (5) My Prerogative — Bobby Brown (MCA)
- (11) I Don't Want a Lover — Texas (Mercury)
- (4) Something's Gotten Ahold of my Heart — Marc Almond and Gene Pitney (Parlophone)
- (9) Fine Time — Yazz (Big Life)



Michael Jackson: in the UK charts

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- Theme of this puzzle, Italian style
 - Moves rapidly
 - Health club
 - Antic
 - "The —" Dostoyevski novel
 - Give shape to
 - 1948 Evelyn Waugh novel
 - Palindromic constellation
 - Delhi garb
 - Mideast hotspot
 - Bravery
 - Part of USNA
 - Rely (on)
 - Skill
 - Rose Bowl site
 - Longest river in France
 - Indigo
 - Domesticated
 - 1940 Jack Benny flick
 - Goblet feature
 - Snug as a bug in —
 - City NW of Grenoble
 - Chamois
 - Actress
 - Charlotte
 - Zoo attractions
 - Con
 - Costly
 - Ginger cookie
 - Historic periods
 - Dada exponent
 - Susan novel, with "The"
 - Debutant's "Prodigal Son" heroine
 - Gum resin
 - Architecture style
 - de tete
 - Madrid mister
- DOWN
- Bible book
 - Ceylonese langur
 - Secret agent
 - Excavator's find
 - Leandro's girl
 - Quay
 - Collection of Icelandic heroic poems
 - Denizen
 - Heavy weight
 - Spiegelberg
 - Fissile rock
 - "Evita" role
 - Obie or Tony
 - Blue of baseball
 - Indifference
 - In — (peevish)
 - Where to find a hero
 - Start of a Shakespearean title
 - Cheer for the team
 - Fitzgerald's Zelda
 - Cancel
 - Muralist Rivera
 - Constructed anew
 - Original inhabitant
 - Lisa
 - Gaelic
 - Scoters and bowlers
 - Valley
 - City near Vesuvius
 - Haydn
 - soubriquet
 - Sacred song
 - Courtyards
 - Tibet's neighbor
 - 54 Western resort
 - Cinema-tographer
 - Nykivist
 - Verne captain
 - Moslem prince
 - Author Bagnold
 - Parts of mins
 - Cheer for
 - 55 Down
 - El —, Spanish hero

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

BASTITIA SLEPT
ALLI MOVE TABOO
SLIM AGED EVERT
IAMB GANGPLANKS
CHEESE GEOI
ROSTIE SALADS
CRAWL TRES USIA
HEROINE SEGMENT
ANIL TRON ABATE
DEAFEN BEALE
NELL NARROW
BIOARDROOMS JAPE
OLLIE SNEE AIMID
RIJATIA EGAL CONIG
GONIER SITIM KINEIE

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

READ THEM AND WIN

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 7 6 4
♥ Q 8 2
♦ Q 7 5
♣ J 9 3

WEST EAST
♠ A K 2 ♠ Q J 9 3
♥ A 10 5 ♥ 7
♦ J 10 9 8 3 ♦ 6 4 2
♣ A 10 ♣ 8 7 5 4 2

SOUTH
♠ 10 8 5
♥ J 9 6 4 3
♦ A K
♣ K Q 6

The bidding:
South: 1 NT
West: 2 NT
North: 3 NT
East: 4 NT
Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

If you read bridge columns, ours included, you might get the impression that you have to be in game or slam for the play to be interesting. Nothing could be further from the truth. Many low-level contracts feature sparkling play and defense.

West's no trump overall showed the equivalent of a no trump opening bid. Because of his fit, North might have considered a penalty double rather than two hearts—de-

clarer could have been held to six tricks.

Against two hearts, West led the king of spades and East dropped the queen. This play guarantees either a singleton queen or possession of the jack as well. Since a singleton queen was impossible (that would have given South a six-card spade suit), West knew he had an entry to his partner's hand. He also knew that he could expect no other help from his partner—all the points in the pack were accounted for.

For the defense to prevail, the defenders would need to take three spade tricks. That, together with the aces of hearts and clubs, would provide the defensive book. Where was the setting trick coming from?

A trump promotion was impossible because of dummy's holding. That left only a club ruff. So at trick two West abandoned spades in favor of switching to the ace of clubs and another. Declarer won and led a trump, but West wasted no time. He climbed up with the ace, cashed the ace of spades and continued with a spade to East's jack. The obvious club return and West's ruff for a one-trick set completed an excellent defense.



"My life insurance company has offered me a reduction if I eat out."

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

Aries (March 20 - April 18)
You will have plenty to do and should not waste time. 35 and 8 are your lucky numbers. Avoid trying drastic diets losing weight slowly is just as good. Do not allow some small setback to upset your peace of mind. Be benevolent.

Cancer (June 21 - July 21)
At first you will be a little unsure of yourself, but later you will regain your self-confidence. You will be better able to face up to reality. Make sure you take sufficient regular exercise. Be sincere.

Libra (Sept 22 - Oct. 22)
The influences are mixed and you should avoid doing anything rash. You must also be careful to avoid exaggerations. Give others the benefit of any doubt. Be cordial.

Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19
You will be able to put something you learnt recently to good use. You should not put all your eggs into one basket. And you should not rely too much on others just now. Be resourceful.

Taurus (April 19 - May 19)
You will tend to tire easily so try not to overdo things. Avoid getting into a fierce argument. The general situation is rather delicate so tread carefully. Be punctual.

Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)
You should not believe all you hear, nor should you say for certain something about which you have doubts. You should keep your wits very much about you. Make sure you do not park where you should not — you are likely to get a ticket.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov. 21)
You should not take anything for granted just now. Nor should you trust to luck, you are not likely to have much of it. Make sure your partner knows what you have in mind. Avoid pretending, not even to yourself. Be magnanimous.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb. 18)
The Moon's more favourable influence will help you to make some changes for the better. You should try not to worry about something that will probably not happen. Try to spend a few hours out of doors. Be resolute.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20)
You will be able to make good progress with a personal project. Try to avoid saying anything that might give rise to offence. Avoid spending as if there were no tomorrow. Be abstemious.

Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)
You will be able to find the solution to a personal problem. A good opportunity will not be seen as such until it is too late, but there will be another. Give your partner a treat. Be optimistic.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
You should avoid making changes just for the sake of change, but nor should you resist change where it is necessary. Make sure that your partner knows what you have in mind. Avoid pretending, not even to yourself. Be magnanimous.

Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)
This is an important day and should not let things happen to you. Try to spend a little time just clarifying your ideas. And do not take too much for granted. Be careful.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Probing a dark side of Rudyard Kipling

By Peter Ackroyd

IT IS the contention of this contentious but entertaining book that Rudyard Kipling, poet of empire and story-teller of genius, was a repressed homosexual whose most important work comes out of his struggles with that suppressed or unacknowledged orientation.

We all know about his dark side—in fact it is one of the most interesting things about him—but Martin Seymour-Smith now gives it a name. It was this homosexuality that encouraged both his intimacy with chaos and his hysterical attachment to the "law": it was responsible both for his emotional imbalance and his hysterical prejudices; to put it crudely, he was in love with the British Empire because he fancied British soldiers.

Objections

There are many objections to this, principal among them being the fact there is no real evidence for it—no secret code in his diaries, no lavatory exploits, no old queen's reminiscences of "dear Ruddy".

It remains pure surmise; and in fact Martin Seymour-Smith can only support his theory by the ingenious but forced linkage of circumstantial evidence (already, of course, it is beginning to sound like some kind of crime). But even if we accept Martin Seymour-Smith's word for it, surely it is still wrong to conclude that repression in itself is necessarily harmful. Yet here it becomes the sole proper explanation for his "inhumane statements" and his "cruelty".

Indirectly, and no doubt unconsciously, Seymour-Smith is in fact reviving all the old prejudices against homosexuals under a different banner—now it is repressed homosexuals who are being given a bad name. But sexual repression, far from being one of the most significant of Kipling's problems, might in fact have been the solution. If he had not been repressed he might not have become a great writer.

But all this of course is to beg the question—the question itself being the extent to which any kind of sexuality is the principle motor of human conduct and human expression. Certainly Kipling cannot have been a repressed heterosexual, since he was happily married; but the



Rudyard Kipling: guardian of the imperial tradition

serious point is that his sexual orientation may be of no real importance. Yet in order to pursue certainty where no certainty exists, and to find evidence where none can be found, Seymour-Smith takes no account of such matters, and in the process, becomes too resolutely single-minded. His is an intriguing story, but it may have no real connection with Kipling's life.

Of course not all of the book suffers from this over-determination. Martin Seymour-Smith is an intelligent writer who approaches the usual myths about Kipling with a scepticism not generally to be found in biographers.

The basic facts remain the same as any in a shilling life—the Anglo-Indian infancy, the abandonment in a Southsea lodging house, the journalism, the return to Britain, and the rapid achievement of that great fame that was never entirely to leave

him. Then there is the story of the recluse who lost his son in the war, the secretive man who was guarded by his wife. In this sense Rudyard Kipling offers a convincing portrait of a well-protected, smart, sarcastic and somewhat bitter man who was able to project an image of himself as an "outcast" and "rebel" even as he became a guardian of the imperial tradition.

Fact

In fact we are confronted throughout this long and detailed biography with a series of paradoxes—Kipling was both an authoritarian and a subversive, an upholder of the imperial creed while half in love with the darkness which that creed attempted to suppress, both gaoler and prisoner, a man who lacked "kindness of heart" but who turned himself into a "universal uncle," a genius whose actual philosophy was

"cruel, unworthy, and impractical," an egocentric with a powerfully sympathetic imagination.

Given this list of opposites being yoked violently together, is it not also possible that he was both homosexual and heterosexual—and that this quite common ambivalence is one of the least interesting things about a writer who made expert use of much greater internal conflicts?

That is why Seymour-Smith is more interesting, for example, on the connection between Kipling and the gothic tradition. He was a pessimist and an authoritarian who believed in what might be called the catastrophe theory of humankind.

Doubt

There seems little doubt, after all, that "his sense of deep personal unworthiness" led him to grant genius only to "a daemon outside himself"—in other words, he was so fearful of modest that he refused to accept responsibility for his own great gifts.

That is why in Kipling's writing the world becomes some open wound, a place of horror and hardship where it is best not to know the true purpose of God or the awful potentialities of the human heart—better to mark a straight path instead, to obey the law and do one's duty.

And yet all the time Kipling's genius is working beneath the discernible surface, subverting his political clichés, contradicting his certainties, undermining his judgement. He is preoccupied with the tears of things, but his sensibility is not expressed in Virgilian cadence but in that thoroughly robust and economical prose which is only occasionally too laconic and too demotic for its own good.

Most of this biography, then, is as intelligent as it is well-researched. And so it is even more of a pity that Seymour-Smith should unbalance a fine work by acting as a kind of recruiting sergeant in sexual matters, dragging Kipling off in a direction that he might neither have recognised nor appreciated. With a genius such as his, in any case, the competing claims of homosexuality or heterosexuality are really of no lasting significance.

RUDYARD KIPLING By Martin Seymour-Smith (Macdonald/Queen Anne, £16.95)

Setting the record straight on Yeats

By John Wain

W.B. YEATS is the greatest poet the English-speaking peoples have had in the last hundred years. Does that mean that we need to know as much as possible about his life? Be careful, the answer may be no.

The modern world is immensely confused about the arts. People know, in a general way, that literature, for instance, is a Good Thing, but they have no clear idea of what they think it is or what they want it to do for them. There are difficult questions here that call for sustained meditation.

Most of the people who handle literature—who package it, market it, write and talk about it—are not capable of this meditation. Put them down in front of a major writer and they have no idea how to react. They see only two ways open. If they are clever and imitative, they can squirt out cuttlefish ink in the form of critical theory (post-structuralism, etc) designed to make it impossible to tell whether they are saying anything or not. Alternatively, they can burrow into biographical fact.

Value This last may be of value or it may not. The last 20 years have seen a succession of immensely detailed biographies of writers, but how many of them have actually illuminated the work of those writers?

Didn't that work made its impact just as sharply, and perhaps more clearly, in the days when we knew nothing much about the writers' lives? When a biographer has firmly conducted a work of imagination back to the concrete setting in time, place and occasion, isn't it like an escaped animal put back in a zoo—tamed and shown of precisely those transcending and generalising elements that made it into art in the first place?

I for one, then, would be far from making the automatic assumption that because Yeats is a great poet and because Jeffares

knows an awful lot about him, this book is worth reading. Still, I can say unequivocally that I think it is. I have found it helpful, just as 40 years ago I found helpful the earlier biography of the same poet, with which Jeffares began his career.

That first book contained a mass of new material. Jeffares had had long conversations with the widow and been allowed access to all kinds of hitherto unknown papers. As a result he was able to set the record straight in some important particulars.

Account

For instance, it had been quite usual to account for the lofty, idealistic tone of Yeats' early love poems by saying that during the years when he was breaking his heart over Maud Gonne he lived in a state of high melancholy chastity as far as other women were concerned. The people who thought this were at the old game of deducing the biography from the work. In fact, as Jeffares was able to show, Yeats had solaced himself during these years first with an unhappy married woman and then with a single one.

Not that Yeats' sexual life was the only area in which Jeffares offered illumination. He was useful on the whole complicated story of the evolution of the poet's philosophical beliefs, the struggle to found an Irish theatre as a means of raising the consciousness of the nation during the doldrums that followed the death of Parnell, Yeats' degree of involvement and non-involvement with the 1916 Easter Rising, the importance in his life of Lady Gregory and Coole Park. All these matters are treated yet more fully in the new book.

It is a help to know something about them because we have, in Yeats, a case where biography impinges on the poetry to an unusual degree. Yeats achieved greatness as a poet in spite of the fact that, on the face of it, everything was against him.

He belonged to, and was much preoccupied with, the problems



W.B. Yeats: achieved greatness as a poet in spite of the fact that, on the face of it, everything was against him, says his biographer.

of a minority nation, so that there was no question of his being "the voice of" a powerful and confident national unit like Kipling's England or Robert Lowell's America. He was not well educated and showed no special promise in his youth, nor had he any influential friends who could help him to take short cuts to recognition. To cap it all, he was personally gauche and timorous.

Accomplished

Despite all this, he strengthened and deepened his art year by year until, by 1914, when he was nearing 50, he was unmistakably a major poet; and by 1928, when he published *The Tower*, he was writing verse of such authority that it has never since been approached; and, now that the art of poetry has gone into what seems like irreversible decline, presumably never will be.

Yeats accomplished this largely by wanting to. He had high

natural gifts, of course, but with all the obstacles in his way he would never have reached that peak of greatness without an arduous process of self-fashioning, first deciding what kind of poet he was going to be—the lofty, visionary kind—and then deliberately cultivating everything in his own mind and in his circumstances that could minister to that aim. More than any other poet of our language with the one outstanding exception of John Milton, Yeats made himself, step by step, into the poet he longed to be.

The stages of the process are clearly set out in this solid, patiently assembled book. The illustrations, too, contribute their share, particularly a hauntingly tragic photograph of Maud Gonne in old age: Helen with her Troy long since buried in ashes.

W.B. YEATS: A New Biography by A. Norman Jeffares. Hutchinson, 374 pp, £16.95

A project to gladden feminist hearts

By Bonny Mukherjee

THE feminist press in Britain and India have joined hands to conceive a publishing project that will gladden the hearts of all sisters in the cause.

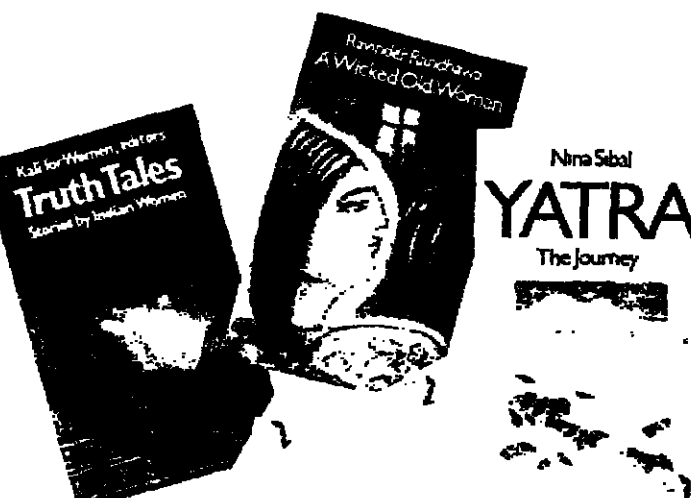
Based in Delhi, Kali for Women is India's first feminist publishing house. Much to its credit it already has several original titles on its catalogue, while the London-based Women's Press has made a name for itself for its innovative ventures in promoting lively and original writing by and for women.

Unusual

The two publishing houses recently produced an unusual anthology of short stories from India under the candid title of *Truth Takes—Stories by Indian Women*.

The collection comes from a tradition of Indian writing which is beyond the familiar Indo-Anglo framework and is largely unknown to readers in the West. The Women's Press acknowledged that this school represents some of the most "dynamic trends" in contemporary Indian literature in general and feminist writing in particular.

The anthology contains



Some new titles published by India's first feminist publishing house.

stories from seven leading Indian languages—Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Gujarati, Urdu, Tamil besides English. Each has a vigorous literary tradition and as such the collection represents seven distinct schools of writing.

Among the authors included in this representative collection are two senior and renowned writers, Mahasweta Devi (The West Nurse) and Ismat Chughtai (Tiny's Granny). The other authors

include some old and new names: Ila Mehta (Smoke), Sunil Aphaie (The Dolls), Miral Pandey (Tragedy in a Minor Key), Lakshmi, Kannan (Munyakka) and Vishwapiyayengar (Midnight Soldiers).

Amongst the more recent titles is *A Wicked Old Woman* by Ravinder Randhawa, founder member of the Asian Women's Writers' Collective. In what is her first novel, Ravinder takes a sharp, witty look at family life in

Britain's Indian community. Kulwant, held in contempt by her prosperous family, walks the streets of London dressed in old rags.

Her story is traced through her meetings with Kaya, a film researcher and old school friend. In a strong feminist stand, Ravinder attacks conventional morals and preconceptions in Indian society.

Realities

Another Women's Press publication is *Yatra* by Nina Sibal. It is the tale of six generations of Indian women set against the changing political realities in India. It is a well researched book on the impact of social upheavals on women's lives from the 19th century to the present day.

Again in a first novel, Sibal says: "You cannot separate an individual's life from the larger historical and political context in India today. I think women should write about bigger issues, like politics, religion or war and not confine themselves to domestic issues."

Sibal is diplomat turned lawyer, presently working as director of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations in New Delhi, and is an active campaigner for women's right.

By Martin Cropper

PRINCE is improbably enough, the real Christian name of the prodigiously talented egomaniac who has become the Josephine Baker of pop. "Dave Hill," conversely, sounds too artlessly matey to be true: our man with the imported lager and the right attitudes and the free tickets for tonight's gig.

It is a pity he did not have tickets for Prince's British premiere, at the Lyceum in 1981 (not, as the photographic captions have it, 1980). Strutting and grinding in flasher's mac, fetishist's waders and someone else's crotch-holster, Prince then was wonderfully funny, like a Jimi Hendrix impersonator desperately improvising his way out of an agent's gaffe that had booked him into a hen party instead of a dance hall.

Burlesque shrivels in the acres of Wembley, where "Dave" once saw Prince's later-day megashow—the nearest indeed he has come to his subject in the flesh. That in itself should not particularly matter.

The interviews Prince did give before reclusion, some extracted here, are drably self-important and rather witless; it would perhaps be churlish to expect more. The adolescent smut of his lyrics and the extravagant utilization of his stage show are the canny product of a man who spent three years of High School on a course entitled "The Business of Music." What you see is almost certainly what there is.

Problem

Still, a commission is a commission. If you can't not talk to your subject, you have to settle for talking to the people who used to know him. (In Prince's case you cannot talk to the people who know him now because they all have silence written into their contracts: it pays to be rich.) You interview the half-disgruntled manager manque, the ex-minister, the cast-off sidemen. You fly to Minneapolis and talk to the second-hand clothes dealer who used to dress Prince's erstwhile supporting group.

Prince of badness



Pop star Prince

Here we enter the land of the liottessers, where information is probably stymied by ignorance and reportedly muffled by the patter of libel lawyers' feet, leaving the hapless author bending over backwards to sit on more than one fence simultaneously.

The more heroically he strives to erect his scaffolding on inconceivable fact—the only significant one being that at 13 Prince was kicked out of home by his musician stepfather—the less visible his subject becomes.

If the Prince of these pages had no objective, they would constitute an accomplished parody. "Drawing directly from the rich motorway history of rock 'n' roll imagery," Prince reupholstered an established catalogue of car/girl/coital conquest metaphors to reflect his own all-consuming persona. "That 'directly' is exquisite. The more ambitiously illiterate passages induce one to re-read at different angles in the hope of chancing upon a hidden code.

Pop music—even stuff as sophisticated and allusive as His Royal Badness—is specifically

designed to bypass thought; scuttling along by its side, pop journalism will keep searching for an interpretative role somewhere between the headphone and the ear. It often ends by describing scenery for the blind. Like a train-spotter confronted with a sudden swarm of butterflies, "Dave" is reduced to inventing stills, stocktaking credits, timing the exact length of recorded songs.

It is largely a mess of his own making. Dourly addressing "the important stuff about race, sex and class," he seems to grasp the commercial significance of Prince's light skin colour and teasing androgyny, but his assertion that the exhibitionism of black entertainers is "subversive" is glib and fatuous. And which looks more persuasive: the tall-wagging keenness of "What showbiz people do is important" or the shop-soiled piety (on the following page) of "The obsession with 'personalities' is a depressing indictment of the times we live in."

Nowhere do we find the most obvious connection between Little and Jimi Hendrix, that the latter used to play in the former's backing group—that their influences on Prince, in other words, are serial rather than parallel. Since the author early declares his conviction that "all entertainment... is the product of a culture," the omission is baffling. Of Smokey Robinson, on whose singing style Prince consciously modelled his own, there is not one falsetto peep.

Assuming that "Pete" Townsend—the guitarist and thinker who makes Faber fabber—is not gone off his trolley, one has to see this book's intended target as the rock 'n' roll completist or super-fan, and they deserve it. Its busy parade of punctilious irrelevance, bat-eyed prescriptions, chippy euphuism and syntactical anarchy is "difficult" in the way that migraines are difficult.

Many of the photographs are in full colour.

Prince: a Pop Life, by Dave Hill, Faber, £6.99.

Advertising executive turns mystery writer

By Lori Lesser

NEW YORK, (Reuters): The high-stakes advertising world is said to be cut-throat, but the phrase has a different meaning for James Patterson, chief executive of J. Walter Thompson USA.

His job at the top of one of the world's most powerful ad agencies follows a two-hour early morning stint writing mystery novels.

He has already sold more than one million books in the United States and nine foreign countries.

His latest book is *The Midnight Club*, a thriller of drug lords, murders, sex and other hot New York topics. Its hero is John Stefanovich, a detective confined to a wheelchair after being shot.

Patterson, 41, fought with publishers to have a handicapped hero, which they said would not be "commercial." The executive said he was inspired by living with a woman for 2-1/2 years who was confined to a wheelchair by a brain tumour.

"I wanted to create a handicapped person who was larger than life," said Patterson, who has sold the film rights of the book to David Brown, producer of *The Sting* and *Jaws*.

"In general, people should just be treated like people, but there's something about people who are visually different that throws people off."

Patterson started as a writer, having earned his master's degree in English from Vanderbilt College. But he soon realised that paying the bills from writing alone would diminish his ardour for the craft. So he came to New York and joined JWT as a copywriter in 1971.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By Dr Allan Bruckheim

QUESTION: When my physician found out that I'd never had German measles, he advised me to get immunized. Everything was all right until five weeks later, when I began to get pain in my wrists and broke out in a rash. Did I get the German measles from the shot? Am I now immune?

ANSWER: Under the circumstances your doctor's advice was sound and you did the correct thing in getting all of your shots up to date, particularly since you were recently married. Rubella immunization is important for women because the complications of pregnancy and German measles are often tragic, particularly during the first three months of pregnancy when the fetus can be terribly damaged by the rubella virus.

Today we use a live, attenuated type of rubella vaccine, where the virus has been altered and is no longer able to provoke the disease in humans. It can be given as a single immunization or combined with a mumps vaccination in a single injection. The side effects are well-documented, and that is what you experienced.

Patients may experience fever, rash, and swollen glands in the neck and behind the ears, as well as arthralgia (joint pains) in as

GERMAN MEASLES CAN DAMAGE FETUS

many as 40 per cent of the cases. These side effects can appear two to 10 weeks after the injection and usually last only for a few days. You are not infectious during this time; you're only having an unwanted side effect, not the disease.

The good news is that your goal has been achieved despite the small inconvenience, and you are now protected against a real case of the German measles.

QUESTION: I guess there is no doubt that increased physical activity can certainly make you feel better and help fight heart disease. I think a more important question is whether it will help you live longer. I would like to think all this concentrated activity will give me a few extra years here with my loves ones.

ANSWER: A most interesting question with a new point of view. You really made me do my homework.

There are a number of research projects that shed some light on this question, and here is a summary of one that may be a bit controversial. Dr Juha Pekkanen and associates from the National Public Health Institute in Helsinki conducted a 20-year follow-up of a 1964 study of 636 men bet-

ween the ages of 45 and 64. These individuals had been grouped according to their level of activity, including exercise and work habits.

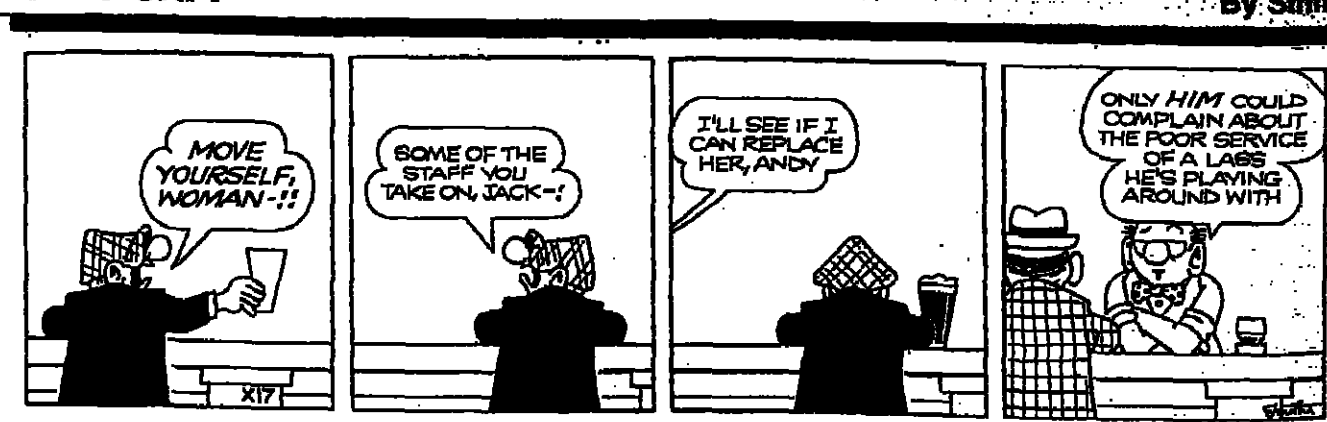
Work was classified as sedentary (desk job), moderate (truck drivers and shop keepers), heavy (farmers) and very heavy (lumberjacks). The group was divided into two groups, 250 men with high overall level of activity and 386 men with low overall activity.

Follow-up studies were conducted five, 10 and 20 years after initial examination and classification. For the first two-thirds of the study the men that had high physical activity had lower mortality rates, but this began to even out as the 20-year period approached. When adjustments were made for smoking, blood pressure and cholesterol, the active group had lived only a 2.1 years longer, but deaths from heart disease was lower in the active group.

Actually smoking was a greater predictor of risk of death, increasing constantly with the years. Conclusion? Keep your exercise programme going, but be sure to stop smoking to obtain your goal.

1989 TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES, INC.

ANDY CAPP



By Smith

BUSINESS & FINANCE

China will have 260m surplus workers by end of century

BEIJING, March 3, (AP): China will have 240 to 260 million surplus workers by the end of the century, threatening serious economic disruption if more jobs aren't found, an official daily newspaper said yesterday.

The Economic Daily (Jingji Ribao) said more than 200 million of the surplus labourers reside in overpopulated rural areas.

The report came as cities in this nation of one billion try to cope with a deluge of rural migrants looking for better-paying city jobs.

The prosperous southern province of Guangdong, for example, has put out an emergency appeal to the state to help handle 2.5 million mostly rural outsiders who have flocked to the province in recent weeks.

The daily, citing a report by the China Rural Development Research Centre, said China's labour force is growing by an estimated 10 million a year, outstripping the number of new jobs.

Increased

The State Statistical Bureau said earlier this week that the urban work force increased by 3.6 million last year, to 135.7 million.

The report did not estimate how many of the surplus workers would be unemployed. Although the government has called on businesses to operate more efficiently, most state-run plants continue to retain their excess workers rather than lay them off.

Economists say 20 to 30 million of the urban work force is excess manpower that could be cut without affecting production.

In the countryside, some 80 million peasants have left the farms to work at small rural enterprises that have shot up during the past decade of economic reforms.

Enterprises

However, many of these enterprises are now in trouble or closing down because of inefficiency, lack of energy and basic materials, or a cutoff in credit as the government moves to slow down the overheated economy.

The report said that while labourers exceed job opportunities in China's underdeveloped areas, there is still a demand for labour in developed sections of the country.

It suggested an easing of the nation's strict residence regulations to allow for greater worker mobility. The country should also set up a special rural labour development organisation to organise rural labourers for work on the international labour market, it said.

Third World urged to deal with debt problem jointly

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, March 3, (AP): President Daniel Ortega said yesterday that the violence shaking Venezuela this week could happen at any time in Latin America, and he called on the Third World to deal with the foreign debt problem jointly.

In a letter to Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, Ortega also said the clashes that have reportedly left at least 200 people dead and hundreds injured are the result of "rigid policies and unjust economic relations" of industrialised nations toward the Third World.

"Today it's Venezuela; tomorrow it could be Brazil, Mexico, Argentina or any of the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean," Ortega said in the letter. "All of them are exposed to this jolt."

The letter was dated and made available to news media on Thursday.

Increases

Rioting and looting in Caracas and other Venezuelan cities came after Perez's government announced increases in the price of gasoline and public transport, as part of measures demanded by the International Monetary Fund to restructure the economy in return for new credits.

The leftist Sandinista government's economic plan for 1989 includes measures similar to those being put in place by the Venezuelan government, to fight hyperinflation. The Nicaraguan measures call for budget cuts of more than 40 per cent, laying off more than 30,000 public employees, and tightly restricting credit.

Nicaragua's currency, the cordoba, has been devalued six times so far this year. Each time, the price of gasoline, and consequently the food prices also have risen.

Amman seeking to restructure its foreign debt

Investors flock to Jordan industrial estate

AMMAN, March 3, (Reuters): Investors, freed from government red tape, have flocked to occupy factories at an industrial estate in the desert outside Amman over the past five months.

"The major incentive was the government's abolition of industrial licensing requirements in August," Fayiz Soheimat, general manager of Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) told Reuters.

Since then more than 50 companies have been set up at Sahab estate and all standard factories were now occupied. "We are planning to build additional factories," he said.

Soheimat said October's effective devaluation of the dinar by 30 per cent against the dollar and a 20 per cent cut in rental fees on the estate had also boosted investment.

get and balance of payments deficits.

The JIEC, which had not expected full occupation before 1990, still has serviced plots for investors who wish to build their own factories.

More than 150 medium and small industries operate at Sahab, 57 set up in 1988 compared to only 18 in 1987. They employ about 4,000 people, mostly Jordanians.

Debt

"Twenty-two foreign companies are represented, including joint ventures with investors from Cyprus, Taiwan, Italy, Singapore, Canada, Austria and the Arab world. Swedish, Syrian and Iraqi firms have wholly owned projects.

The high demand for Sahab's facilities is a bright spot in the beleaguered Jordanian economy, suffering from trade, bud-

get and balance of payments deficits.

Central Bank officials say Jordan is seeking to restructure its foreign debt of \$6 billion on which payments of interest and principal due in 1989 total \$1.2 billion.

The government, trying to reorient the economy from consumption towards production, offers companies tax breaks, customs exemptions and other incentives to expand Jordan's limited industrial base to supply domestic and foreign markets.

The JIEC, a shareholding company in which the government holds about 70 per cent of the equity, is building a second industrial estate near the northern town of Irbid.

Soheimat said the new estate was due to be completed by the end of the year, but it should be able to accommodate some

industries by May when infrastructure should be in place.

He said JIEC, set up in 1980, had spent about 20 million dinars (\$37 million) on both estates and would spend another three million dinars (\$5.5 million) this year.

Loans

It has received three loans from the European Investment Bank, totalling 14.5 million ECUs (\$16.6 million), one worth 33 million Saudi rials (\$8.8 million) from the Saudi Development Fund.

Soheimat said the self-financing JIEC was now breaking even after earlier losses, but no figures were available.

Industrialists at Sahab, which now has an on-site customs office to ease export and import procedures, have invested about 75 million dinars (\$139 million),

including about 15 million dinars (\$28 million) since August, he added.

Export-oriented industries account for two-fifths of the total at Sahab and aim mainly at neighbouring Arab markets.

Soheimat said the dinar's lower exchange rate had made export industry more competitive, while costs such as wages, rent, utilities and transport had remained stable.

Longer term prospects for manufacturers, which account for nearly half of Jordan's visible exports, depended much on access to outside markets, particularly those of the Arab world.

"Jordan is a very small market. Perhaps the Arab Cooperation Council will help," he said, referring to last month's creation of an economic bloc linking Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen.

Market experts search for ways to harness technology

WASHINGTON, March 3, (AP): Wild swings in stock prices harm the economy speakers said at a conference yesterday while disagreeing on whether Wall Street is part of the solution or part of the problem.

Experts at the two-day forum on technology and its role in the financial markets are exploring how to give the markets computer-driven efficiency without courting computer-driven disaster.

As exchanges move towards 24-hour, world-wide trading and install ever-faster computers, the experts want to make sure electronic trading systems do not overwhelm the people who are supposed to control them.

Concern

One concern is the wild price swings that have occurred periodically in the stock market, partly due to computerised trading programmes that can rapidly buy or sell millions of shares as part of speculative strategies.

Lawrence H. Summers, a Harvard University economist, said harmful speculation could be reduced by a tax on securities trades.

But Louis I. Margolis, a managing director of the Wall Street investment firm Salomon Brothers Inc., said a better answer would be a return to fixed commissions for brokers.

The proposals came on the second and main day of the forum, which was sponsored by the Annenberg Washington Programme and Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management.

Acknowledging that investors are unlikely to tolerate going back to fixed brokerage fees, Salomon's Margolis said an alternative would be to free brokerage firms from some of their remaining constraints.

Brokerage firms are hamstringed today, unable to stabilise the markets by coming in to buy stocks when prices fall steeply, Margolis said.

"We are coming along to a liquidity crisis in the stock market," Margolis said.

"We've seen the traditional swings between optimism and pessimism compressed into every short periods of time," he said.

But Summers said the best way to deal with the chaotic price swings would be to discourage short-term trading.

The forum featured sessions with US regulators, academics and leaders of several major exchanges.

'We are very optimistic of the future': premier

Economy a great success, says Mousavi

NICOSIA, March 3, (Reuters): Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hossein Mousavi said his government had achieved great success with the economy in view of limited facilities and huge social problems.

In an interview with the evening Farsi newspaper Ettelaat yesterday reviewing progress for the second decade of the Islamic revolution, he rejected the idea of government failure in the economic field.

"Running the war (with Iraq) for eight years, especially without foreign aid, is not an easy task, particularly when the government sticks to the constitutional framework without curtailing public freedoms under the pretext of having a freer hand," he said.

Miracle

"An inflation of 23 per cent — of course it is a bit more now — is a miracle in view of war difficulties, and with no help from outside," the Iranian news agency IRNA received in Nicosia quoted him as saying.

Hostilities in the eight-year Gulf war ended with a UN-brokered ceasefire last August.

"When you chant slogans against the regional reactionaries, they cut down oil prices, which entails foreign currency shortage and ultimately affects public standards and welfare," he said.

"Every single year of the decade was unprecedented, since we had air raids, floods, confronting US plots, including its direct attacks on ships and oil wells and bombardment of economic centres."

Effects

"Of course we used to have high revenues, but the revenues which increased since 1974 in turn caused inflation to jump 16 per cent. The inflation during the wartime, Afghan issues and other side effects, should be compared with this figure."

"Imports were at 18 million tonnes when the population was 36 million, while last year they were between 12 to 13 million tonnes."

Iran's population was estimated at 50 million last year.

"When we consider the war factor we see that the inflation rate was practically broken last year regarding the basic items,"

Mousavi said. "If we fight harder more powerfully, the rate will even go lower than what it is now."

Asked during the two-hour interview whether government performance matched slogans, Mousavi said:

Actions

"We did not chant slogans compared to our actions... bombardment of the country's economic centres was so devastating that it could have paralysed Iran."

Everybody was busy in reconstruction "with bleeding bodies and beside the corpses of their brothers," he said.

"The Abadan refinery was totally destroyed 14 times and was rebuilt again in order to supply necessary fuel needed at the war fronts, and this far exceeds the government's slogans," he added.

"Throughout the eight long years of the war we did not borrow a single dollar, and resisted falling into the hands of the East or West, keeping our morale high..."

On reconstruction, Mousavi

termed the rebuilding of the Abadan refinery "a miracle."

By refining 130,000 barrels of oil per day, \$1 billion were saved for the purchase of raw materials, including food, he said.

Reconstruction

The money allocated for reconstruction of the refinery could have been spent on the purchase of rice for nationwide distribution.

"The war has ended with some \$80 billion of foreign debt for the Iraqi regime, while Iran does it debt free," Mousavi said.

Summarising Iran's situation, Mousavi said that although some difficulties existed, "there is a great hope for our success, and we are very optimistic of the future."

We did not fall into US hands thanks to the unwanted war and the people's resistance.

The war broke all dependent bands which could possibly have pushed us towards the US the expulsion of 400 American experts with all the influences of their corrupt culture, boosts our self-confidence and this is a great achievement."

Savings bank crisis could modernise industry

WASHINGTON, March 3, (Reuters): The crisis in the savings and loan industry could result in an overhaul of banking laws that would help American banks meet tough competition from banks in Europe and Asia, the chief US banking regulator says.

L. William Seidman, chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp (FDIC), said the crisis, which threatens to wipe out 500 savings and loan associations, could force Congress to consider the need to modernise the laws.

Seidman said banks and savings and loan associations should be allowed to expand through separate subsidiaries, which if they failed, would not result in losses for insurance funds.

Activities

He noted that, unlike US banks, banks in Europe and Asia are not prevented from operating nationwide and can undertake more investment activities, such as securities underwriting.

Seidman, whose agency regulates 14,000 banks and insures deposits at them, spoke yesterday in an interview with Reuters and the international television news agency Visnews.



L. William Seidman

Huge losses caused by mismanagement, fraud and an economic downturn in the southwest have left 500 savings and loans, also known as thrifts, insolvent or nearly so. The problem is

expected to cost the government \$157 billion over 10 years.

President Bush last month proposed a sweeping plan, which would involve selling government bonds to cover the costs, to return the industry to financial strength. Repayment of the bonds would be shared by healthy thrifts and taxpayers.

Seidman predicted Congress will adopt the Bush proposal but may make changes in it.

And he said that despite heavy losses and the need for a government bailout, savings and loan associations have a future as a separate industry.

Seidman said he disagrees with experts who see thrifts merging with the banking industry.

Trend

The trend in Congress favours keeping an industry for home financing separate from commercial banking, he said.

"You start from the fact that we have a (thrift industry). They are a very substantial factor and for the time being they are going to remain that way," he said.

Thrifts take in savings from depositors and loan the money for home purchases. They provided 40 per cent of all new home financing last year.

Post-war reconstruction top priority in Iraq, says minister

BAGHDAD, March 3, (OPECNA): Post-war reconstruction projects in Iraq will be given top priority in the 1989 foreign trade plan, according to Minister of Trade Mohammed Mehdi Saleh.

In a televised interview, Saleh said the 1989 import allocations had been increased by 22 per cent over the 1988 figure in order to provide existing and under-construction industries with their requirements, including imported raw materials, machinery and equipment.

Construction

He pointed out that since the beginning of this year, the Ministry of Industry had signed several agreements for the construction of major projects, including an accord with the Italian firm Danili to set up a steel plant with an annual production capacity of 300,000 tons.

The ministry, he noted, had also started the construction of a giant petrochemical complex, which would annually produce 21 kinds of by-products worth more than \$1 billion at current prices.

The 1989 import plan, the minister said, would also meet the requirements of private industries.

Seventy per cent of the allocation would go to the public sector, while 26 per cent was earmarked for the private sector, he said.

Exports

Imports would be made from countries which maintained trade and banking records and arrangements with Iraq.

According to recent figures, Iraq signed 30 trade agreements in 1987 with Arab and non-Arab countries.

The minister pointed out that Iraq's exports would also increase in 1989, noting that besides oil, Iraq also exported agricultural and industrial products, including fertilisers, cement, sulphur, dates and barley.

He said over the past three years, measures had been taken to promote Iraqi exports and encourage private exporters as part of a plan to increase foreign trade.

Many incentives had also been offered, including permission to private firms to export their products on a barter basis at 40 per cent of the total value of goods exported. The Trade Ministry had also offered a 35 per cent subsidy to exporters of fruits and vegetables and was paying them the difference between minimum sale value and the export price.

Air passengers on North Atlantic routes rose in '88

GENEVA, March 3, (UPI): Air passengers on North Atlantic routes rose 9.3 per cent to 28.2 million last year with US and Canadian airlines getting most benefit, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) reported today.

The North Atlantic is the world's busiest route area and accounts for 12 per cent of all international passengers and 22 per cent of traffic revenue, it said.

"The eight US airlines operating scheduled services on the North Atlantic route made particular efforts last year," IATA Director-General Guenther Eser commented.

"They gained passenger market share at the expense of the Europeans and now have about 50 per cent of the traffic," he said.

"Similarly, on routes to and from Canada, the Europeans lost ground," Eser said. "The four Canadian carriers controlled 50

per cent of the market, leaving the rest to be shared between 19 other airlines."

The overall rise of 9.3 per cent in passengers to 28,242,933 comprised a 9.1 per cent increase on scheduled services to 26,200,018 and a 12.3 per cent increase in charter passengers to 2,042,937 passengers, IATA said.

Despite the rise in numbers, there was an overall decline in the passenger load factor of 1.1 per cent to 70.4 per cent because of a higher number of available seats due to more flights and more aircraft.

Occupied seats on scheduled North Atlantic flights dropped 1.2 per cent to 69.3 per cent while there was a slight rise of 0.2 per cent to 86.9 per cent in the passenger load factor on charter aircraft.

North Atlantic freight traffic rose by what IATA called "a healthy 12.5 per cent" to 1.6 million tons.

World Business Summary

Turkey and Iraq agree on 1989 trade debt repayment

ANKARA, March 3, (Reuters): Turkey and Iraq have agreed on the repayment of \$1.3 billion of Iraqi trade debt for 1989, Turkish Finance Minister Kartal Altinok said yesterday. "There are no hitches in debt repayments. By 1991, Iraq will have repaid all of its debts," Altinok was quoted by the semi-official Anatolian news agency as saying. He was speaking before Iraq's first Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan left Ankara after a three-day visit. Turkey last April suspended fresh trade credits to Iraq, its main oil supplier. Official Turkish sources said at the time the debt had spiralled to about \$2.7 billion. Ramadan, who met Prime Minister Turgut Ozal and other officials, was quoted by Anatolian as saying the two countries did not fix a trade volume ceiling for 1989. Turkey's exports to neighbouring Iraq in the first 11 months of last year were worth \$935.9 million, while imports were valued at \$1.29 billion. This compares with \$786.4 million and 1.03 billion in the same 1987 period. Ramadan was visiting Turkey two weeks after Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi, during which Ankara and Tehran agreed to aim for bilateral trade volume of \$2 billion in 1989.

Japan is still top foreign investor in Australia

CANBERRA, Australia, March 3, (AP): Japan remains the largest foreign investor in Australia with most money being spent on real estate, according to government figures released today. The Foreign Investment Review board said Japanese investments last year reached the equivalent of \$4.3 billion, an almost 70 per cent increase from \$2.6 billion the year before. Total overseas investments in Australia last year reached almost \$20 billion, the board said. Britain was the second largest foreign investor in Australia with \$3.8 billion, followed by New Zealand with \$2.2 billion and the United States with \$1.4 billion. The board said nearly 60 per cent of Japanese investment went to buy and develop tourist facilities and other real estate, mainly in the states of Queensland and New South Wales. Japanese investments have triggered a backlash in Australia with critics accusing the Japanese of pushing up land and housing prices. The federal government, which strongly supports Japanese investments, has asked the Tokyo government and Japanese companies to try to direct more investment into manufacturing.

Barclays Bank almost quadrupled profits in '88

LONDON, March 3, (Reuters): Barclays PLC, Britain's second biggest bank, said yesterday its pre-tax profits for 1988 almost quadrupled to £1.39 billion (\$2.39 billion). The figure was higher than financial analysts had expected. It compared with an adjusted pre-tax profit of £369 million (\$634 million) in 1987 when the bank set aside a £713 million (\$1.22 billion) exceptional provision for Third World country debts it did not expect to recover. Barclays said it had lifted its standard provisions for Third World debt to 38 per cent of its exposure, outstripping reserve levels announced last week by its three top competitors. National Westminster PLC, the largest British bank, raised its provisioning to 35 per cent, Lloyds Bank PLC to 34 per cent and Midland Bank PLC to 32.6 per cent. Analysts said the higher levels of reserves would be well received by the market, which is concerned about what it sees as the fading prospects of some Latin American nations repaying their debts. Barclays said its domestic banking profit rose 41 per cent to £773 million (\$1.33 billion).

Nigeria's manufacturing sector gets a boost

LAGOS, March 3, (OPECNA): Nigeria's manufacturing sector improved remarkably in the second half of 1988 over the same period a year earlier, according to a report by the Manufacturing Association of Nigeria (MAN). The economic review said noticeable improvements were recorded in capacity utilisation, sales turnover, overall industrial production and employment. It said between July and December last year, capacity utilisation stood at 40 per cent, a three per cent increase over the level recorded in the corresponding period of 1987 and a five per cent rise over the first half of last year. The review noted a 44 per cent increase in the production of goods during the period under review over the same half of 1987. There was a remarkable increase in sales turnover between July and December last year in almost all manufacturing sub-sectors. Sales rose by an average of 45 per cent over the same period in 1987, ranging from 21 per cent for rubber and plastics to 102 per cent for basic metal, iron, steel and fabricated metal products, it said.

Malaysian palm oil output tops 5 million tons

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, March 3, (AP): Malaysia's total palm oil production surpassed 5 million tons in 1988, the Palm Oil Registration and Licensing Authority said in a report released today. Last year's production reached a combined 5.03 million tons, up 10.9 per cent over the previous year's output of 4.53 million tons, the organisation said in its monthly publication, Palm Oil Update. Exports rose 3.3 per cent to reach 4.36 million tons in 1988, compared to 4.22 million tons in 1987, it said. Malaysia is the world's largest exporter of palm oil, accounting for 65 per cent of total production. India imported the largest volume of Malaysian palm oil with purchases reaching 754,219 tons in 1988, according to the report. The figure, however, represents a decline of 301,665 tons or 28.6 per cent from the previous year, it said, citing as a main factor an improvement in vegetable oil production in India. Alias Ali, deputy Minister of Primary Industries, has said he will visit the Middle East and China in May or June to promote the sale of palm oil.

Norway to set up oil fund

OSLO, March 3, (Reuters): Norway's minority Labour government said yesterday it planned to establish an oil fund which could make the Norwegian economy less influenced by volatile oil prices. Money from the fund, which would be allowed to grow in periods with high oil revenues, should be invested abroad. "In our long-term programme we say that we want to set up an oil fund," Finance Minister Gunnar Berge told a news conference. "The (oil) revenue must be invested abroad if we are to draw on it at a later date. We would not have saved anything should it be spent in Norway," he said. Norway is Western Europe's biggest oil producer after Britain and oil forms the backbone of the economy. "But managing the funds will be no problem until 1992 as hardly any money would go into the fund in this period," Berge said, referring to the present low oil prices.

Statoil back to profits

STAVANGER, Norway, March 3, (Reuters): Norway's state oil firm, Statoil, said yesterday it returned to profit last year and forecast a net surplus of one billion crowns (\$150 million) in 1989. The country's biggest company and cornerstone of the oil-based economy said it had made a net profit of 1.53 billion crowns (\$227 million) in 1988, after a 1987 loss of 1.53 billion crowns (\$227 million). Statoil president Harald Norvik told a news conference that increased oil production and the likely absence of any further write-downs on cost overruns at the Mongstad oil refinery project would improve the picture. The refinery has exceeded its budget by 130 per cent and is regarded as a major industrial scandal. "We are not happy with 1988 but we can see the effects of our restructuring process beginning to take shape," he said. In January Statoil said it was planning to cut costs and reduce its staff in order to improve its finances.

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AN DOL ST	12/0	12/0
ED NAT NO	61/2	61/3
FELDCREST	21/7	21/6
LEETWOOD	27/4	27/1
LEWING CO	31/5	31/7
MC CORP	37/3	37/3
MOTOR	51/7	51/7
OSTER WHL	16/5	16/5
RCHLD IN	13/1	13/0
REE MC BK	4/4	4/4
ST OAG	20/4	20/6
ST CHICAG	35/5	35/4
ST INTERS	45/6	45/6
ST MISSIP	19/4	19/2
AF CORP	51/2	51/3
ANNET CO	36/2	36/4
ALVESTON	2/0	2/0
ATX CORP	56/3	56/4
CA CO	0	5/2

Wall Street Statistics *Composite*

NYSE HIGHEST VOLUME				AMEX HIGHEST VOLUME			
STRAGE TEC	2	-	1/8	CARNIVAL	16 1/4	-	1/8
PAN AM CP	4 1/4	+	1/4	TEXAS AIR	13 1/2	-	UNCH
TEXACO	52 7/8	+	3/8	D W G CORP	7 7/8	+	1/8
TOSCO	4 3/8	UNCH		ECHO BAY	15 7/8	+	1/4
UNION CARB	31	+	3/8	IMPRIL OIL	42	+	1/4
TW SERVICE	27	-	7/8	I G I INC	8 1/2	+	1/2
CONDUSS ENG	28 5/8	+	5/8	WANG LAB B	9 5/8	+	UNCH
AMERIGO WES	3 1/2	+	3/8	NASSRO INC	17 1/8	+	UNCH
PHILLIPS P	21 3/4	+	1/4	DATAPRO	17	+	1/8
ENHART CP	41 1/8	+	5/8	OMI CORP	8 3/8	+	UNCH

NYSE LARGEST	PER CENT	CHANGE	AMEX LARGEST	PER CENT	CHANGE		
USTRN UNION	2 1/2	+	3/8	LEE PHARM	4 5/8	+	1/2
VESTRON IN	5 3/8	+	3/8	BERNUDA ST	3 1/2	+	3/8
VARCO INTL	3 3/4	+	1/4	ARK REST	2 3/4	+	1/4
LVT GROUP	2 1/8	-	1/4	ODETICS A	5 5/8	-	1/2
LITVAR CORP	2 1/2	-	1/4	LARIZZA IN	5 5/8	-	3/8

NYSE VOLUME	AMEX VOLUME
50,812,470	2,571,850
STOCKS UP	574
STOCKS DOWN	555
2-MAR - NASDAQ VOLUME	129,485,600
STOCKS UP 1140	786
	STOCKS UP
	175
	STOCKS DOWN
	169

Wall Street Market Report

NEW YORK, March 3, (Reuters): Wall Street stocks remained narrowly lower with traders reluctant to take long positions ahead of the weekend, brokers said. Stocks gained on a strong dollar and bond market Thursday, but both turned lower today. The dollar fell on a big sell order in Europe.

The Dow was off four at 2262 and a handful more issues showed losses than gains. Brokers said action was limited mostly to professional traders. Oppenheimer and Co. market strategist Michael Metz said: "It's too early to draw any conclusions" about whether Thursday's gain has collapsed. "The market is holding its gains well," he said.

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Oil prices boosted

Dollar mostly higher and gold moves up

LONDON, March 3, (UPI): The dollar closed mostly higher on the European exchanges today. Gold was also up.

In Frankfurt, the dollar closed up at 1.8440 Deutschmarks against Thursday's closing 1.8410. The dollar closed higher also in Zurich, at 1.5760 Swiss francs against 1.5735 in Brussels at 38.76 Belgian francs against 38.70, and in Milan, at 1,358.90 lire against 1,357.50.

The dollar fell in Paris, at 6.2660 francs against 6.2690. In London, the pound finished the day at \$1.7220 compared with \$1.7240.

Higher

Gold closed higher in Zurich, at \$386.50 per ounce against \$383.50 per ounce, and in London, at \$386.50 per ounce against \$383.25 per ounce.

Silver was up at the close of trading in Zurich, at \$5.85 per ounce against \$5.80 per ounce, and rose in London, to \$5.82 per ounce against \$5.76 per ounce.

World oil prices firmed 20 to 30 cents on international spot

crude markets today on reports of output cuts by non-OPEC producers, traders said.

Prices jumped to their highest levels in six weeks late on Thursday on technical buying and a published report the Soviet Union and China would cut production in the second quarter. The cuts, which could amount to 100,000 barrels per day (BPD), were not confirmed by either country.

Exports

The Mexican Energy Ministry confirmed that it would cut its oil exports by five per cent for the second quarter of 1989, while Egypt announced it would cut exports by 24,000 BPD for the same period.

The upward momentum was briefly interrupted by the release of the latest Reuters Survey that estimated OPEC February crude production at 19.65 million BPD, still over the group's first half 1989 production ceiling of 18.5 million BPD. But, a slight fall in prices was soon overcome as optimism about non-OPEC

reductions continued to support international markets.

North Sea Brent blend, most widely traded internationally, was 25 cents higher at \$17.70 per barrel.

West Texas Intermediate, the US benchmark grade, rose 30 cents to \$18.80 a barrel. Mideast Dubai jumped 25 cents to \$14.95 a barrel for April cargoes.

In London shares were off their highs on the day as Wall Street showed a small early decline and buying interest from the morning here ran out of steam, dealers said.

Investors

Prices had risen during the morning on relief the Bundesbank yesterday left West German interest rates unchanged, a higher Wall Street close and covering of short positions taken out earlier in the week on interest rate uncertainty.

By 1603 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was up 17.5 points to 2,057.2, down from the high of 2,065.6 earlier this afternoon.

Turnover by 1600 GMT was a relatively brisk 544 million shares.

Dealers said some investors today moved to cover short positions which were taken out before Wednesday's UK January trade data were released. These were opened on speculation UK base rates could go above the current 13 per cent in the near term.

Rates

Sentiment about higher UK interest rates shifted after Wednesday passed without a base rate rise and the Bundesbank left rates unchanged on Thursday. But there remains concern about the pound, which has had repeated Bank of England support. "A fair number of those people who took out shorts on the view that possibly higher interest rates would send shares a lot lower are now being squeezed," one trader said earlier today.

While the chances of higher UK interest rates appeared to diminish with the Bundesbank

news yesterday, some feel UK base rates could face upward pressure if sterling continues to fall.

But the recent fall in the pound has had some positive effects for foreign currency earners. British Steel was up 2p to 84 on the day's highest turnover of 43.7 million shares by 1611 GMT. Analysts said that with steel sales tending to be priced in marks British Steel stood to gain from a weaker pound.

Down

British Aerospace, which receives much of its revenue in dollars, was up another 6p to 544. Other exporters to gain included Glaxo up 15p to 1,273 and BOC 10p up at 501.

Enterprise shares were down 18p to 551. Speculative demand sprang up after news earlier this week of a £569 million rights issue to help fund a \$1.4 billion US acquisition. This rights issue was viewed as likely to free Elf of France to make a bid for Enterprise. Elf has just over 25 per cent of Enterprise.



Floor dealers look up at price quotation boards in thin trading at the Tokyo Stock Exchange on Thursday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Subroto lauds non-OPEC output reduction

Egypt to cut oil exports to stabilise prices

CAIRO, Egypt, March 3, (Agence): Egypt decided today to cut its oil exports by five per cent from April to June as part of a joint international effort to reduce the glut on the world market and shore up prices.

Oil Minister Abdel-Hady Kandil announced Egypt's "major sacrifice" in a press release. He said the move means Egyptian exports will average 24,000 fewer barrels daily.

Egypt, which is outside the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, currently produces between 870,000-900,000 barrels a day, exporting about half that and consuming the rest domestically.

Hope

Kandil's statement expressed hope that all oil exporters will "comply with respective agreements and adhere to the agreed quotas."

An Oil Ministry source said that was a two-pronged appeal, to OPEC's 13 members not to overproduce and to independent exporters to stick to their declared export cuts.

Kandil said the Egyptian cut was decided in light of recom-

mendations made on Feb 21 at a London meeting of oil exporters from non-OPEC producing countries.

"Egypt will contribute to the efforts which aim at monitoring the evolution of the market situation as well as compliance by all oil exporters with the agreement in a concerted way," he said.

Exports

In addition to Egypt, last month's meeting grouped experts from Mexico, China, Oman, Malaysia, Angola and Colombia. Observers attended from the Soviet Union, North Yemen, Norway, the US state Alaska and the Canadian province Alberta.

Oman's government announced on Wednesday a five per cent cut in oil production, also in line with the London meeting.

News reports in the United States said the Soviet Union is cutting its crude oil production by 100,000 barrels daily. There was no word from Moscow, but an Egyptian source said: "The report sounds plausible."

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Kuwait may buy into foreign oil interests in Egypt

KUWAIT, March 3, (Reuters): Kuwait has said it is negotiating with foreign oil firms to buy their production interests in Egypt.

"The Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC) is engaged in discussions with foreign oil companies who have licences in Egypt with the objective of buying their interests in the producing fields they operate," the company's chairman and managing director, Faisal Al Kazmawi, said yesterday.

Permit

He said his company was also looking for opportunities in Indonesia, elsewhere in the Far East and the Mediterranean. It was holding talks with foreign firms for ownership of exploration and production ventures.

Kazmawi said Kuwait and Norsk Hydro of Norway would soon sign an exploration permit with the Egyptian government for a 30 per cent share in a western desert concession.

Move to boost growth prospects

Credit Suisse announces reorganisation

ZURICH, March 3, (Reuters): Switzerland's third largest bank, Credit Suisse, today reported record 1988 net profits and announced a major reorganisation to boost its growth prospects.

Chief executive Robert Jeker angrily denied a Swiss prosecutor's allegations that the bank had been involved in laundering drugs money, but he said it might curtail trading in banknotes as a result.

The bank's net profit rose 7.6 per cent to 592 million Swiss francs (\$377 million). Total assets were up nearly six per cent at 113 billion francs (\$72 billion).

"The fact that fears of a recession have not been borne out ... has helped our bank to achieve a level of performance that has surpassed our expectations," Jeker told a news conference.

Cost

Strict cost control and a strong increase in leading made up for lower commissions on share trading after the October 1987 crash of world stock markets.

Swiss banks hold huge hidden reserves and analysts say real profits are much higher than those which they disclose.

Credit Suisse chairman Rainer Gut said it planned to make its sister company CS Holding the parent for the entire group, heading an international organisation offering a wide range of banking and business services.

Credit Suisse shareholders may exchange their current shares for shares in CS Holding and will also be invited to buy new shares on favourable terms.

Structure

Gut said the new structure would be simpler and would create an improved basis for future growth.

"Throughout the 1990s and beyond, we aim to be among the few major corporations in the world that can boast a strong capital base, a prime quality rating and a truly global operation."

Under the new structure, CS Holding will have assets of 9.35 billion Swiss francs (\$5.95 billion).

In a break with the Swiss tradition of providing only limited financial data, the new company will publish consolidated figures from its first year of operation. Jeker acknowledged that

allegations of involvement in money-laundering had tarnished the bank's reputation but he strongly denied it had done anything wrong.

Investigation

A public prosecutor has said that two Lebanese brothers, under investigation for allegedly laundering drugs money in an affair dubbed the "Lebanon connection", deposited about 1.4 billion Swiss francs (\$891 million) with Credit Suisse.

The Lebanon connection has become a major political scandal in Switzerland. Justice Minister Elisabeth Kopp was forced to resign in December after admitting warning her husband that a company of which he was vice-chairman would be implicated.

No charges have been brought in the case.

Jeker said: "I would like to stress that no Credit Suisse employees were found to have committed offences with regard to the 'Lebanon connection' that require or justify action being taken against them."

Jeker said banknote trading accounted for just 1.6 per cent of 1988 profits.

China hopes to increase economic ties with Iran

NICOSIA, March 3, (Reuters): China's Vice-Premier Tian Jiyun, starting a two-week tour of the Middle East, arrived in Tehran today to discuss economic co-operation.

The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Tian as saying after his arrival that he hoped to increase economic, trade and industrial ties during his five-day official visit.

China supplied weapons to Iran but was officially neutral in the eight-year Iran-Iraq war which ended with a ceasefire last August. It also has close relations with Baghdad.

Ties

Parliamentary Speaker Ali Hashemi Rafsanjani said in January that Tehran considered its ties with Beijing strategic and wanted to see them expanded in all fields.

Iran opened a consulate-general in Shanghai last week.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, March 3, (Reuters): Australian stocks surged again as investor optimism about steadier interest rates swept through the national market. The All-Ordinaries index rose 14.0 to 1,508.9.

TOKYO: Share prices fell after the bond market took a sharp downturn when Bank of Japan Governor Satoshi Sumita said Japan will take adequate and early action to maintain price stability if necessary. The Nikkei fell 73.63 to 32,000.10.

BOMBAY: Share prices salvaged fresh gains for a second successive day on continued buying by the state-owned financial institutions. In textiles, Century shot up 125 to 1,660.

SINGAPORE: Renewed buying interest pushed share prices higher over a broad front in active trading ahead of a budget statement.

US economic index rose 0.6pc in January

WASHINGTON, March 3, (AP): The US government's chief economic forecasting gauge rose a healthy 0.6 per cent in January after it posted an even stronger gain the previous month, the Commerce Department said today.

January's jump in the index of leading economic indicators, a measurement designed to predict economic activity six to nine months in the future, followed a 0.7 per cent increase in December and an unchanged level of activity in November.

The index vacillated during the latter part of 1988, which analysts called a sign that economic growth would slow somewhat this year.

Strong

Nevertheless, 1989 began on a strong note, and analysts have seen few signals that the long-anticipated slowdown has begun.

Analysts expect the economy to continue its record recovery this year, but they believe the pace of growth will slow in response to a year-long campaign by the Federal Reserve board — the US Central Bank — to push up interest rates and cool the economy to restrain inflation.

While President George Bush is pinning his budget and deficit-reductions plans on an optimistic assumption for a 3.2 per cent rate of growth in the gross national product during 1989, many private forecasters expect growth to be closed to 2.7 per cent.

Robust

"Growth will be very robust this quarter, but starting next quarter, I fully expect to see the effects of the higher interest rates," Michael Evans, head of a Washington consulting firm, said in advance of today's report.

William Dunkelberg, dean of the School of Business and Management at Temple University, said economic reports so far this year give "no indication that the economy is going to weaken substantially in the next half-year."

In January, eight of the 11 indicators included in the index contributed to the increase. The biggest positive factor was a rise in a measure of consumer optimism.

Other factors pulling the index up were rising stock prices; increased raw materials prices;

signalling high demand; a longer average work week; slower vendor deliveries to companies, indicating strong demand; an increase in manufacturers' unfilled orders; a drop in initial claims for unemployment benefits and more orders for new plants and equipment.

Indicators

Three indicators made negative contributions, led by a contraction in the money supply. Other negative factors were a decline in manufacturer orders for consumer goods and fewer building permits.

The Fed last week intensified its anti-inflation fight, boosting its key bank lending rate a half-percentage point to 7 per cent, in an effort to rein in accelerating inflation. At the same time, major banks boosted their prime rate, charged to their most credit-worthy commercial customers, by a half-point to 11 per cent, the second increase in two weeks.

The Fed's latest round of credit-tightening came as concerns about inflation had heightened with word that consumer prices rose 0.6 per cent in January and wholesale prices rose 1 per cent.

Today's release of the leading index marks its first issue in a revised format.

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT AS ON 02/3/89			
B.No.	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.
4	Crown Trader	KSA	4843150
5	Ibn Qutaibah	KSA	4843150
6	Ranto	Al Rashid	2422026
7	Ibn Abdoun	KSA	4843150
11	Gorj	Al Sawan	4746018
14	Elizabeth	Algh Barwil	4842988
17	Viking Jade	S. Shaheen	2432692
18	Ivan Koroteev	Al Rashid	2422026
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT			
ETA	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.
2/3	Shaam	ISA	2441860
2/3	Barge Libra	G. Star	4845501
2/3	Ville D. Oman	YAAS	4745533
2/3	Hual Trotter	A. Bahar	2459891
SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIBA PORT			
B.No.	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.
2	Marina Mistral	ISA	2441860
7	Sarla	Steamco	2439973
8	Sea Star-L	Steamco	2439973
10	Korean Zircon	Marafie Intl	2465645
12	Captain Ali	Algh Barwil	4842988
14	Fellow	United Shpg	2437958
NBH3	Tug Gulf Master	S. Shaheen	2432692
NBH3	Barge Wimbrown-6	S. Shaheen	2432692
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIBA PORT			
ETA	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.
1/3	Merzario Britania	Al Kamal	2425437
2/3	Kum Gang	ISA	2441860
4/3	Y.S. Prosperity	Al Rashid	2422026
5/3	Willine Orient	UASC	4843150
6/3	Rhein Express	M. Bahar	2433881
10/3	Sparkle Moon	Gh&Qib	4347815
08/3	World Themis	Algh Barwil	4842988
10/3	Angelic Spirit	Algh Barwil	4842988
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Alghanim Barwil Shipping Co. Kuwait, Alghanim Industries Building, Airport Road, Shuwaikh. Tel: 4842988/4843988 Ext. 3628/3848.			



Two general managers of Scandinavian Airlines (SAS), recently visited Kuwait to see their general sales agent. Pictured from left to right, Emilio Ezzat (SAS general manager - Egypt), Finn Thaulow (SAS general manager - Middle East), and Werner Kuendig (general manager - SAS Kuwait Hotel).



Prof. Dr Rudolf Rodenstock, owner of Optische Werke G. Rodenstock Co. the manufacturers of the famous Rodenstock medical and sunglasses, visited Kuwait on Wednesday. Upon his arrival Rodenstock held a press conference at the Kuwait International Hotel where he highlighted the company's marketing policy in and outside Germany. He evidenced keen interest in the performance of the Kuwaiti market towards the Rodenstock line of quality products. Attending the press conference was Dr Ismail Matin the Managing Director of Matin Optics (a division of Photo & Cine Co.) sole agent of the Rodenstock optical products in Kuwait. Picture shows Dr Matin (left) welcoming Dr Rodenstock.

هكذا مني لاهل



The two babies who play the infants Schwarzenegger and DeVito in the new movie Twins.

One's a right little townie hustler and the other's a wide-eyed innocent from a remote island. But when these crazy guys get together in the movie Twins, the studio chiefs are laughing all the way to the Hollywood bank. Jilly Weber reports on the unlikely pair.

De Vito and Schwarzenegger: the world's most unlikely twins

AS twins go, they are the most unlikely pair in the world — huge, hunky Arnold Schwarzenegger and tiny, plump Danny DeVito.

But Hollywood's newest odd couple look all set to be 1989's biggest box office smash in the movie Twins.

And Schwarzenegger, who shot to fame with his macho, gung-ho roles, has revealed a talent for comedy that has left audiences in America begging for more.

But Twins does not only tickle the funny bone, it also touches the heart as a hilarious and poignant story of family life.

The movie centres around Julius, played by Schwarzenegger, and Vincent, played by DeVito, as twins separated at birth after an experiment to produce just one perfect baby results in the two totally different twins.

Julius is raised on a deserted South Sea island and Vincent grows up in America as a small time hustler. Things hot up when the trusting and innocent Julius arrives in America, meets up with Vincent, and the two begin a hysterical journey to locate the mother that they have never known.

De Vito believes that as well as being a comedy, Twins also has an important message. He says: "No family is perfect... what makes families survive is that we learn to accept and love people for who they are, even with their quirks and imperfections."

And Twins makes that point: the two of us learn to accept each other, to adapt to each other, and finally to love and protect each other through a series of insane misadventures.

De Vito can't praise Schwarzenegger's talent enough. He admits: "Arnold has an instinct for comedy. He has this great sense of humour and he's very, very serious about his work. Improvisation enters into it, and Arnold does bring a lot of that to the movie. He's focussed, very concentrated on what he is doing, yet as loose as a goose."

Schwarzenegger in turn says: "Danny is a very funny character. You laugh all the time with the guy, but he can snap and be serious within a tenth of a second. He's very serious about his craft, and he works right along with the director's mentality."

Twins director and producer Ivan Reitman already has a long list of smash movies to his credit.



Schwarzenegger and DeVito go out for a stroll in Twins.

He created the world-wide mega-hit Ghostbusters plus the cult movies Stripes and Meatballs.

Dream But making a film with DeVito has been a dream of Reitman's for a number of years. He reveals: "I've known Danny DeVito for at least 15 years and I've wanted to do a film with him for a long time."

"Coincidentally, in a one week period about a year ago, I met Arnold Schwarzenegger and also ran into Danny DeVito. And it somehow came into my mind that it would be a great idea if we could put the two of them together in one film."

So, after working with two English writers, William Osborne and William Davies, the screenplay for Twins was born. And Reitman could not be more pleased with the success of Schwarzenegger and DeVito's partnership.

He says: "Danny has already established his comic persona in his previous work. The character Vincent has a lot of the qualities of Louis de Palma, who Danny plays in the television show Taxi, and the scheming husband he

his room and on the floor with him. What can I say! Eat your hearts out women!"

And it's not just a passionate smooch. Kelly even gets to dance with Schwarzenegger. She recalls: "We did a waltz—I have the bruises, the blisters and the holes in my tights to prove it!"

But Schwarzenegger isn't the only one who gets to play love scenes with a beautiful blonde in the movie.

Actress Chloe Webb, star of the highly acclaimed movie Sid and Nancy, stars as De Vito's long suffering girlfriend Linda. She recalls: "Arnold is so relaxed, while the best part of Danny is that he really likes to take a run at things."

Director Reitman made sure that he had the perfect actress to play sister Marlene and Linda. He says: "You have to make sure that you have not only very good actresses, but actresses who can do comedy. What made the choice even more difficult was that they also had to be thought of as sisters as well."

Schwarzenegger feels Kelly helped him in that first-ever love scene. He says: "She made me feel comfortable, and I tried to do the same, of course, for her."

"When you are my age, and when you're married, that's the only way you can get close to a girl when you have a scene like that."

But in the end, Twins as Reitman explains, is a story that centres around the need for the love and protection of a family in face of the harsh realities of the world we live in. He says: "Twins is a story about redefining the ties between loved ones. As the world becomes more alienating and strange and difficult, people need these bonds more and more."

Ideas Schwarzenegger also gets his chance to play his first-ever love scene in Twins. He says: "In my last five or six movies, my love relationship was basically with guns, explosives, grenades and missiles. This new movie was for me a learning experience all the way through, especially when it comes to comedy and timing and all those things."

Kelly Preston, who plays Marlene, Schwarzenegger's love interest in Twins, expresses nothing but delight at having the chance to smooch with the former Mr Olympia.

She says: "It was great. 'I'm in this scene where I'm kicked out of my motel room and end up in

Restored 'Lawrence' makes Omar Sharif nostalgic

By Lee Siegel

LOS ANGELES, (AP) Actor Omar Sharif felt a bit old when he joined fellow Lawrence of Arabia star Anthony Quinn and director Sir David Lean for the local premiere of the restored 1962 Oscar winner.

Sharif watched himself ride across desert sands in his role as Sherif Ali in the restored three-hour, 40-minute director's cut of the movie, whose original version won seven Academy awards.

"It's like a veterans' reunion. Everyone's limping along and has pot bellies," Sharif said after the screening. "I feel very nostalgic because I haven't seen it for 27 years," he said. "It's like re-seeing your youth."

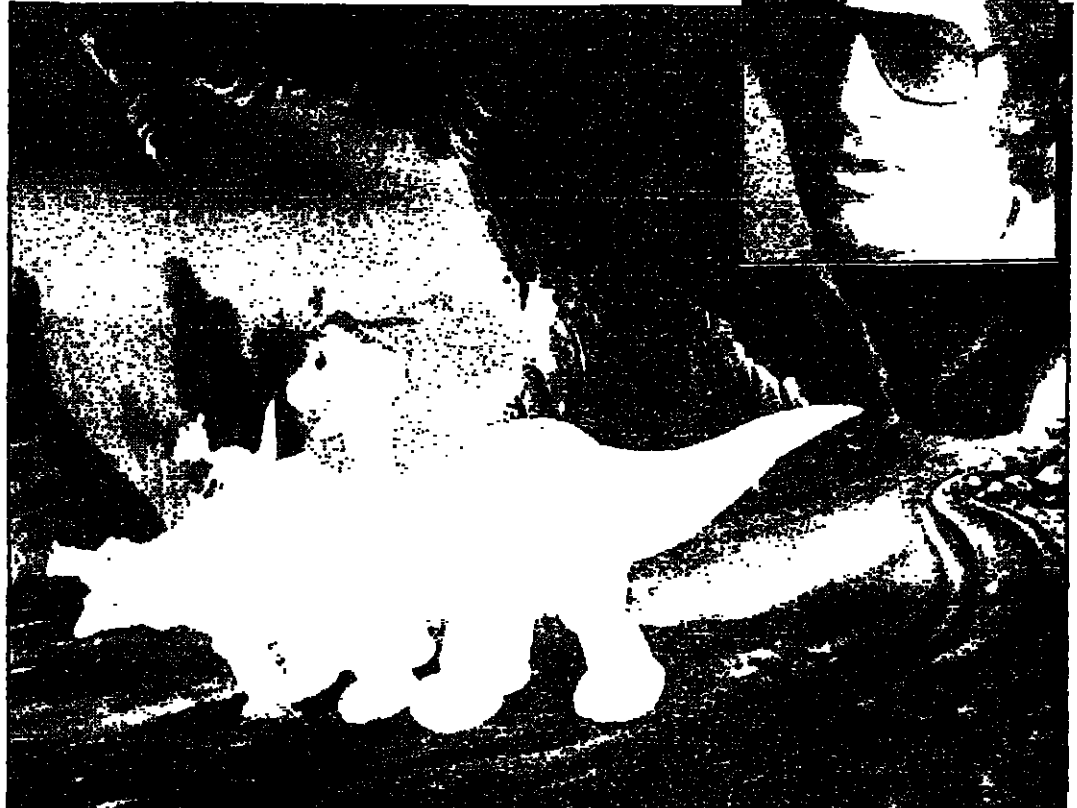
The "Lawrence" premiere followed similar galas in New York and Washington. The screenings and banquets benefited the American Film Institute and its campaign to restore and preserve classic films.

Lean, 80, urged Hollywood to take risks to make quality films. "Spend some money on risky subjects," Lean said. "It's no good being safe in this business. We've all got to be gamblers."

Lean called the late Sam Spiegel, who produced "Lawrence," "one of the last of the great gamblers that have disappeared," but also criticized him for chopping the film.

Lean's original version was cut by nearly 30 minutes shortly after the film's release. Lean contends Spiegel made the first cuts behind his back, but others have questioned Lean's version.

Littlefoot steps in where E.T. left off...



Littlefoot, Petrie, Cera, Spike and Ducky in The Land Before Time and (inset) director Steven Spielberg.

By Jilly Weber

FORGET wide-eyed Bambi and all those tear-soaked handkerchiefs. Steven Spielberg has created a little cartoon dinosaur that will begin to tug your heartstrings just where E.T. left off.

And he has teamed up with George Lucas, the man who peeped into the future for Star Wars, to look back in tenderness 150 million years for their latest blockbuster.

The two magical movie-makers have breathed life into Littlefoot, a cute dinosaur who sets out on a series of adventures as exciting as Raiders of the Lost Ark.

In the new movie, The Land Before Time, Littlefoot, just like Bambi, loses his mother. After she is killed by a sharp-toothed tyrannosaurus rex, the little lost dinosaur sets out to find happiness and safety in a paradise called The Great Valley.

Magic movie-makers Steven Spielberg and George Lucas have created the little cartoon character of Littlefoot. In the new movie The Land Before Time, the cute dinosaur loses his mother — just like Bambi did — before setting off on a series of adventures as dramatic as those endured by Indiana Jones.

And on the way he picks up a group of pals, drawn as sharply as Roger Rabbit. There is fiery Cera, a triceratops, exuberant Ducky, an anatosaurus, little orphan Petrie, a pterodactyl who can't even fly and a spiny-backed stegosaurus called Spike, as dumb but as eloquent as Marx Brother Harpo.

A likely team to frolic their way through a charming story of drama, pathos and comedy. It's like Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom meets Bambi ... a long, long time ago.

Every vivid picture tells a spell-binding story in a film that has captured the imagination of young and old alike.

The Land Before Time has been a box office hit in the United States where it was released in January this year.

Tough-guy Nick got so fit to play a bank-robber in his latest movie Three Fugitives that he unwittingly crushed his co-star for real. But his toughest task was competing with the wide-eyed appeal of a six-year-old girl



Nick Nolte with co-stars Martin Short (left) and Sarah Rowland in Three Fugitives.

By Jilly Weber

ACTOR Nick Nolte really likes to play his parts as near for real as possible. So when he knew he had to play a tough convict for his latest movie, he worked out until he was as strong as a Schwarzenegger.

The only trouble was ... the minute he had to act out some rough stuff with co-star Martin Short, he unwittingly put the screws on for real. And funny man Martin still has the bruises to prove it.

Nick, who plays paroled bank-robber Daniel Lucas in Three Fugitives, said: "Lucas is a big, physical man who believes in fighting anything or anybody that comes up against his sense of right or wrong. This can either be the system itself or Ned Perry, played by Martin."

"I got very strong for this film ... so strong that I could hold Martin with one hand and he couldn't get away. I guess I bruised him in a couple of spots, but he was a good sport about it."

Martin, whose movie character is on the run with Nick in the film, said forgivingly: "During the filming, we became very good friends. Working with Nick was like playing tennis with a brilliant player. I had no choice but to

Nick Nolte: an actor who plays for real

come up to his level."

In Three Fugitives, Daniel Lucas decides to go straight. But, on his first day of parole, he runs into a bungling bank robber, Ned Perry, who takes him hostage during a raid. But what cop is going to believe that he wasn't taking part in the crime himself?

So Daniel and Ned go on the run, taking with them Ned's little daughter Meg. Meg is played by appealing six-year-old Sarah Rowland Doroff.

And acting with a wide-eyed kid is tough, real tough. Even to iron man Nolte, who got into such terrifying shape for the role. Martin Short should have known what was coming in the way of bruises. After all, it is a well-known fact that Nick really lives the parts he plays.

Producer Lauren Shuler-Donner added: "Nick was first on our wish list."

Qualities "We wanted him because he has all the character's qualities. A strong loner who has a soft heart. He is also a great dramatic actor who has top-notch comedic abilities."

Rugged Nick from Omaha, Nebraska made his name in the hit TV mini-series Rich Man, Poor Man. Since then he has starred opposite fiery actress Debra Winger in Cannery Row and played a goodie-goodie cop alongside Eddie Murphy in 48 HRS.

One of Nick's co-stars in Three Fugitives is actor James Earl Jones, who has also played alongside Eddie Murphy. He starred in the recent movie Coming to America, in which he played Murphy's father the King of Zamunda. Jones, who became a well-known face during the 1960's and 70's for his appearances in Dr Kildare and The Defenders, is also starring in the film Shoeless Joe, with heart-throb Kevin Costner. In Three Fugitives James plays Detective Dugan, hot on the trail of the three runaways.

But little does Detective Dugan know that Nick Nolte has prepared for his role so well, he may have found a way out.



Chloe Webb with De Vito (left) and Kelly Preston with Schwarzenegger.



سكرا من يات

SPORTS

Five nations rugby begins today

LONDON, March 3. (Reuters): England's successful pack and France's habit of failing to do themselves justice at Twickenham may prove decisive in the Five Nations Rugby Union match here tomorrow.

It is just as possible, though, that the French will again demonstrate they are the most accomplished attacking side in Europe and make it three wins out of three in this season's championship.

Such an outcome combined with a home defeat for Scotland by Ireland on the same afternoon would give the French the championship for the fourth successive year.

The England-France match always seemed likely to be the competition's key contest and although this remains the case — England are third in the table but only one point behind the French — both teams are likely to approach it differently than at one time seemed likely.

England's victory over Australia last November was an expansive performance in which their backs, notably captain and winger Rory Underwood, were the most prominent contributors. It seemed England were embarked on an era of 15-man rugby.

France, on the other hand, entered the championship on a wave of speculation that they were about to revolutionise the game with, as one English newspaper put it, 'Le Bulldozer Français'.

The front row of the scrum would be made up of three props, the ball at set scrums would be won simply by pushing the opposition off the ball without the help of a hooker and victory would be attained through forward might.

French coach Jacques Fouroux explained the idea was "to sap all the energy of the opposing forwards, to exhaust them."

Meanwhile, unbeaten Scotland must maintain discipline against Ireland at Murrayfield tomorrow to sustain their chance of lifting the rugby union title.

The Scots fought a 12-12 draw with England at Twickenham last month but gave away 11 penalties.

Only inept English kicking saved Scotland, who are unlikely to enjoy that luxury against Ireland's Michael Kiernan. His boot landed some valuable points against France and Wales earlier in the championship.

Ireland's coach Jimmy Davidson said: "The Scottish showed in their draw at Twickenham that they can play a tenacious, ferocious game for the full 80 minutes."

"But don't forget that if England had taken their penalty goals they would have been out of sight. We believe Kiernan's kicking could fully punish any Scottish indiscipline."

Scotland, having beaten Wales in their opening match, are one point behind championship leaders France, who they face in Paris in the final round of matches on March 18.

The Scots have had a month off since playing England and their captain Finlay Calder believes the break has been good for his players.

Italian hopes of men's title hat-trick fading

LONDON, March 3. (Reuters): Italian hopes of a hat-trick of basketball triumphs in the men's European Champion Clubs' Cup are fading after Scavolini Pesaro suffered a narrow defeat against Maccabi Tel Aviv.

Italy's only representatives in the eight-team final pool, from which the top four qualify for the semifinals, lost 93-92 at home yesterday and are sixth in the standings.

Scavolini, seeking to keep the trophy in Italy after Tracer Milan won it in 1987 and retained it last year, are five points behind pool leaders Barcelona and Maccabi, and three adrift of the side currently in the last qualifying position, Aris Salonika of Greece.

Victory

A three-point shot from Israeli guard Chen Lipin, 10 seconds from the end of overtime, gave Maccabi their ninth pool victory in 11 games, while Barcelona lost 84-79 to Yugoslavistika split in Yugoslavia yesterday.

Third-placed Split and Aris, who won 100-88 in Moscow against the Red Army Club CSKA, both have 15 points.

The semifinals are in Munich on April 4, with the final two days later.

Pesaro were heading for defeat in regular time until English referee Alan Richardson called an intentional foul against Doron Jamchy with one second to play and Maccabi leading 81-79.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS CUP

Real hold Eindhoven to a draw in quarterfinal

LONDON, March 3. (AP): Emilio Butragueno, nicknamed the "vulture" for his predatory goalscoring skills, swooped on PSV Eindhoven after 44 minutes as Real Madrid tied the defending titlist 1-1 in Wednesday's European Champions Cup quarterfinal, first leg.

Real, eliminated by Eindhoven on away goals in last season's semifinals, conceded a 57th-minute equaliser by Romario but held on to gain a crucial advantage for the second leg when the Spaniards will go for revenge at their 90,000-seater Bernabeu stadium.

A low-scoring night of quarterfinal action produced only four goals in four Champions Cup games.

One of them was scored by the tournament's rank outsider, Galatasaray of Turkey, which stunned French champion Monaco 1-0 on the road with a goal after 20 minutes by star striker Tanju Colak. Europe's top scorer last season.

In other Champions Cup games, midfielder Klas Inngesson struck 10 minutes into the second period as IFK Goteborg of Sweden trimmed Romania's Steaua Bucharest 1-0. The highly-publicised clash between Werder Bremen and AC Milan, champions of West Germany and Italy, respectively, failed to live up to its star billing in a scoreless tie.

West Germany's other European game also finished goalless as defending champion Mechelen of Belgium held Eintracht Frankfurt in the Cup Winners Cup.

English clubs may be barred from European club competitions but Gary Lineker made sure an English name got on the scoresheet. The international striker scored the 70-minute goal that gave his Barcelona team a 1-0 Cup Winners Cup first-leg cushion in Denmark against Agerhus.

Sredetz of Sofia edged SV Roda 2-1 while in the fourth match of the competition, played on Tuesday night, Dinamo Bucharest was held 1-1 at home by Italy's Sampdoria.

Quarterfinal Three of the UEFA Cup quarterfinal first-leg games were played on Tuesday, when Scotland's Heart of Midlothian caused the biggest stir by upsetting mighty Bayern Munich 1-0.

Another of the competition's giants, Juventus, grabbed centre stage in the only game played on Wednesday when it shrugged off poor League form to beat Italian rival Napoli 2-0.

Both Juventus goals came in the first half, a 13th-minute penalty by Pasquale Bruno and a 45th-minute own goal by Napoli's Giancarlo Corradini.

Napoli, second in the Italian standings, suffered from the poor showing of its three Latin American stars, Diego Maradona, Careca and Alemao.

In Eindhoven, a 27,000 capacity crowd packed into the stadium of the defending Champions Cup titlist for a rematch of last season's meeting with Real.

The injury-hit Dutch, without several key players, showed no sign of weakness as they mounted ceaseless attacks in the first 15 minutes. But Romario, the skill-

ful Brazilian international, was well-marked by the Real defense and the initiatives slipped away from the defending champions.

As PSV's opening offensive petered out, Real Madrid strikers Butragueno and Hugo Sanchez made their first forays forward, slowly building up the pressure on the Eindhoven goal.

Sanchez had the ball in the net at 27 minutes but the goal was disallowed for a foul by the Mexican striker on PSV goalie Patrick Lodewijks.

But in the 44th minute, Real scored a goal that counted. After a rush by Bernd Schuster and a cross by Miguel 'Michel' Gonzalez, Butragueno scored with an unstoppable header into the left-hand corner.

After a brief moment of panic at the start of the second half, Eindhoven laid siege to the Spanish goal and got its reward at 57 minutes when Romario at last broke free of his markers and headed in Soren Lerby's centre.

The remainder of the game, played in driving rain, was marked by increasingly ineffective pressure from the Dutch.

Monaco, hoping to become the first French team to win the Champions Cup, had most of the play against visiting Galatasaray but couldn't find a way through.

Successful Colak, whose 39 goals earned him last season's "Golden Boot" award, was more successful, heading home the only goal for the Turks midway through the first half.

The goal gave Colak's team a precious lead, especially as Galatasaray has to stage the second leg in Cologne, West Ger-



Jean-Marc Ferratte of Monaco (right) strikes against defender Cuneyt Tanman (left) of Galatasaray of Turkey during a European Cup match quarterfinal action in Monaco.

many, after being banned by UEFA from playing at home because of crowd trouble in the previous round.

In Goteborg, the hosts, two-time UEFA Cup winners in the 1980s, carried the play to Steaua Bucharest after a tense opening period.

The experienced Romanian team, which beat Barcelona to win the Champions' Cup in 1986, relied on counter-attacks that were mostly off-target.

Inngesson, a 20-year-old newcomer this season, finally broke the deadlock when he took a pass from fellow rookie Kennet Andersson and fired in a 20-yard

shot.

Twenty minutes from time, Inngesson was again the hero, this time at the other end of the field as he saved a shot by Steaua's star striker Marius Lacatus on the goal-line.

Goteborg's Swedish League season ended last October and the team prepared for the quarterfinals by playing exhibitions in the United States, Mexico, Spain and England.

"We didn't really know anything about our form, since we've been playing practice games only during the last three months," said Goteborg's coach Kjell Pettersson.

Ben Johnson used steroids, says coach

TORONTO, March 3. (Reuters): Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson used steroids in preparation for the 1987 World Athletics Championships in Rome where he set a world record that still stands, his coach told a federal inquiry yesterday.

The government inquiry into drug use in sport was called after the Jamaican-born Johnson was stripped of his Olympic 100 metres gold medal in Seoul after testing positive for steroids last September.

Injecting Testifying under oath for a third day, Canadian athletics coach Charlie Francis said he first began injecting Johnson with bulk-building anabolic steroids in 1986.

He said on Wednesday that Johnson and other members of the Canadian team had used steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs since 1981.

"And was Johnson on a steroid programme in June and July, 1987?" inquiry lawyer Robert Armstrong asked Francis.

"Yes he was," Francis said. "Ben received only furazabol at that time. He got the injections from me at my apartment. Two shots per week over a period of two weeks."

On August 30, 1987, Johnson set a world record for 100 metres of 9.83 seconds at the World Championships.

Johnson has denied he knowingly took steroids before beating his great American rival Carl Lewis to the finish in world record time at Seoul. The

anabolic steroid stanozolol was found in Johnson's urine and he was subsequently disqualified from the Games and stripped of the gold medal.

Francis said that Dr Mario (Jamie) Astaphan had administered anabolic steroids to Johnson and some of his teammates beginning in October 1984, but moved back to his native Caribbean island of St Kitts in the autumn of 1986.

It was then that Francis said he began injecting Johnson with steroids and administering the drugs to other members of the Canadian team.

Astaphan has denied administering banned drugs to Johnson. Both Johnson and the doctor are expected to testify at the inquiry, which was sparked by Johnson's Olympic scandal.

"Was Ben Johnson on a steroid programme in the fall (autumn) of 1986?" Francis was asked by Armstrong.

"Yes, he was. He was on a programme of three injections per week that Dr Astaphan left behind after leaving Toronto," said Francis.

"Dr Astaphan left behind a couple bottles of furazabol. I was administering the injections to Ben."

"He got three injections per week for three weeks and then two injections per week for three weeks, and then ceased," said Francis, who coached Johnson since 1977.

He said Canada's top woman sprinter Angella Issajenko was also taking furazabol, a steroid banned by the International Olympic Committee, during 1986. He said Issajenko administered her own injections.

Found Francis said also that for a 10-day period in November 1986 Johnson took four milligrammes per day of stanozolol — the steroid which was found in his Olympic drug test.

"But Ben was never able to go through the whole two-week stanozolol programme that was



Francis (top) and Johnson during a training session. (Reuters wirephoto)

recommended because his muscles became too stiff, so he'd stop taking the tablets," said Francis.

The 40-year-old coach said Johnson never took stanozolol in injectable form, only in tablets.

Francis had not made any public statements since Seoul before taking the stand here on Tuesday in a hearing room packed with lawyers and journalists from around the world.

In nearly four hours of testimony on Wednesday, Francis, Johnson's first and only coach, told how he advised Johnson and other runners they would not be able to compete at world levels without the aid of banned muscle-building drugs.

Francis has testified that other members of Canada's athletics team who were steroid users included Desai Williams, Tony Sharpe and Molly Killingbeck.

Williams, in Budapest for the World Indoor Championships, said yesterday he had never used steroids.

Francis, who had portrayed himself as a kind of father figure to Johnson in earlier testimony, described how he told the runner "the facts of life" in international athletics.

Tried "He could decide either he wanted to participate at the highest levels in sport or not," Francis, a former Olympian, said on Wednesday. "He could decide to set up his starting blocks on the same line as all the other competitors in international competition, or set them up a metre behind them."

Francis said he himself first tried steroids before winning the 100 metres title at the 1973 Canadian Championships.

Knicks beat Miami Heat

NEW YORK, March 3. (AP): Newly acquired Kiki Vandeweghe scored 16 of his 23 points in the first half as the New York Knicks won their 22nd consecutive home game, 132-123 over the Miami Heat in the National Basketball Association games last night.

The Knicks, who fell behind by eight points in the first quarter and saw a 23-point lead trimmed to seven in the fourth quarter, managed to improve their home record to 25-1. Miami fell to 1-25 on the road, including 16 consecutive losses.

Cavaliers 112, Spurs 84 In Richfield, Ohio, John "Hot Rod" Williams scored 16 points in the first half, including eight during a 22-5 run that put Cleveland in control as the Cavaliers handed the San Antonio Spurs their 13th straight loss, 112-84.

The victory was the Cavaliers' sixth straight overall and extended their team-record home streak to 22. The Spurs' losing streak is also an ongoing club record.

Nets 114, Hornets 103 In East Rutherford, New Jersey, rookie Chris Morris scored 31 points and Lester Conner had a triple-double and sparked a fourth-quarter rally that carried the New Jersey Nets over the Charlotte Hornets 114-103.

In snapping a three-game losing streak, the Nets rallied from a 15-point third-quarter deficit after the Hornets had taken a 74-59 lead.

Suns 110, Kings 90 In Phoenix, Tim Chambers tied a career-high with 18 rebounds and scored 20 of his 32 points in a lopsided first half as the Phoenix Suns beat the Sacramento Kings 110-90.

Biasion leads in Portuguese rally REGUA, Portugal, March 3. (Reuters): World champion Massimo Biasion fought off an early challenge by Lancia team-mate Markku Alen today to build a commanding lead of five minutes 49 seconds in the Portuguese rally.

Finland's Alen started the fourth day less than four minutes behind the Italian leader and slightly narrowed the gap by winning the first three special stages near this picturesque northern town.

But mechanical problems and a lengthy skid in this morning's later stages cost him more than four minutes and France's Didier Auriol, also in a Lancia, moved into second place with just over one day's driving left.

After 23 of the rally's 37 special stages, Auriol was five minutes 49 seconds behind Biasion and Alen, bidding for a record sixth win in Portugal, was 7:39 adrift.

Swedish veteran Bjorn Waldegard, Toyota's only remaining team competitor, stayed in fourth place 10:24 behind.

Works team-mate and early front-runner Juha Kankkunen of Finland pulled out of the rally with engine trouble.

Only about half the original 100-strong entry have lasted through the third stage and one driver, Portugal's Augusto Mendes, was killed on Wednesday when his Opel Kadett plunged down a mountain ravine.

English soccer

All the eyes on Second Division promotion race

LONDON, March 3. (AP): The names of Manchester City, Watford and Blackburn Rovers take centre stage in England's League soccer programme this weekend as attention focuses on the promotion race at the top of the Second Division.

Because of England's World Cup qualifier against Albania in Tirana next week, the entire First Division programme has been scrapped to allow national team manager Bobby Robson to gather his squad together for a full weekend's training before the trip behind the iron curtain.

Robson, under intense media scrutiny ever since his team's poor showing in last year's European Championships and the subsequent 0-0 home draw with Sweden in its opening World Cup qualifier, asked for Saturday's League action to be postponed.

Spirit The Football League agreed, falling into line with the country-wide policy of continental rivals, who regularly call off domestic games the weekend before an important international to avoid injuries to key players and maintain team spirit.

The League's ruling means all but one of Saturday's 10 First Division matches were rescheduled, some already having taken place, others set aside for later in the season.

The only one to survive is the bottom of the table battle between Sheffield Wednesday and Charlton, neither of whom have any players in the England national squad.

Either of those two teams could well change places at the end of the season with Manchester City, one of the country's biggest clubs but overshadowed this season by Manchester United, its cross-town rival.

City, with a squad of talented young players, lies second in the Division Two standings on 60 points from 31 matches, one point behind leader Chelsea.

With two teams automatically promoted, both City and Chelsea look good bets to rejoin the elite.

The third promotion place will be between the teams finishing third through sixth, who will play off for the remaining spot.

Relegated Chelsea, relegated at the end of last season, is unbeaten in 17 games but is idle on Saturday. That gives Manchester City, hoping to get out of the division at the second attempt since dropping down in 1987, a chance to move back to the top of the standings.

City takes on fourth-placed Watford, another promotion candidate, at home in the division's big game. Third-place Blackburn Rovers, who just missed promotion last time after losing in the playoffs, travels to lowly Brighton.

Like its English counterpart, the top division in Scotland also has been postponed because of World Cup commitments. Scotland faces France in Glasgow next week in another important qualifier and all Premier Division games have been rescheduled.

Waltrip takes on a challenge

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida, March 3. (AP): Driver Durrell Waltrip likes the challenge of trying to win the Daytona 500 and the Goodwrench 500 at Rockingham's North Carolina motor speedway in the same year.

Richard Petty is the only driver to win Daytona and the Goodwrench in the same year, accomplishing the feat both in 1971 and 1974.

Waltrip, who won his first Daytona 500 less than two weeks ago, has a chance to do it on Sunday.

"What are the odds of a single driver winning any two races at any two tracks?" Waltrip said. "The odds are 40-1 against you winning one race and 40-1 in the next race. With those kind of odds, it would just make it that much sweeter if we did win."

The Rockingham track opens Thursday for pole qualifying. The 500-mile race requires 492 laps around the demanding oval.

"Rockingham is a tough race track on everybody," Waltrip said. "It's demanding on the cars. It's a tough place to win anyway."

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Anatoly Karpov

LINARES, Spain, March 3. (Reuters): Former world champion Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union moved closer to compatriot Vasily Ivanchuk today, after beating Lajos Portisch of Hungary in 56 moves in a game adjourned from the ninth round of an international chess tournament.

Karpov, now just half a point behind tournament leader Ivanchuk, is due to play with the advantage of the white pieces against Jan Timman of the Netherlands in tomorrow's final round. Ivanchuk is to play with the black pieces against Portisch.

Tigana withdraws

PARIS, March 3. (Reuters): Experienced midfielder Jean Tigana has withdrawn from France's 18-strong squad for a vital World Cup soccer qualifier with Scotland in Glasgow next Wednesday.

French team chief Michel Platini said the Bordeaux player, who is reported to have a thigh strain, would not be replaced. Tigana recalled to the French team by Platini under threat of suspension after announcing his retirement from the national side, failed to appear when the squad assembled yesterday at their headquarters.

Hughes to return

PERTH, Australia, March 3. (Reuters): Former Australian captain Kim Hughes said yesterday he would return to South Africa later this year to attend centenary celebrations of the country's cricket governing body.

Hughes, who captained Australian rebel tours of South Africa in 1985/6 and 1986/7, is not expected to play cricket during his one-week stay in the racially-segregated republic.

Rostagno wins

ABILENE, Texas, March 3. (AP): Top-seeded Derrick Rostagno won — eaking out a third-set tie-breaker — over veteran Sherwood Stewart 6-3, 6-7 (3-7), 7-6 (7-3) in first-round action on Wednesday of the Abilene Mental Health Association pro indoor tennis tournament.

The 42-year-old Stewart, primarily a doubles player at this stage of his career, broke Rostagno's service at 5-5 in the third set to serve for the match. But Rostagno broke back to force the tie-breaker.

Lorraine Open

NANCY, France, March 3. (AP): Frenchmen Eric Jelen, seeded fifth, and Thierry Tulasne, No. 8, bowed out of the \$130,000 Lorraine Open tennis tournament yesterday, victims respectively of Britain's Jeremy Bates and Belgium's Eduardo Masso.

Jelen, ranked 59th in the world, was thumped soundly by Bates 6-1, 6-2.

Tulasne, who is the world's 76th-ranked player, fell to Masso 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (7-5). He conceded the first set to the Argentine-born Belgian but came back to take a relatively easy second set at 6-2.

In the third set, the Frenchmen missed a number of important points, went to tiebreak and lost 7-5.

Contract renewed

BRUSSELS, March 3. (Reuters): Belgian national goalkeeper Michel Preud'Homme has renewed his contract with European Cup winners Mechelen for a further five years. Mechelen manager Geert Lermyte said today former European champions Porto of Portugal had been in touch with the club about signing Preud'Homme, whose present contract runs until the end of the 1989-90 season.

WBA title fight

BISMARCK, North Dakota, March 3. (Reuters): Virgil Hill sees the latest defence of his World Boxing Association lightweight title against fellow-American Bobby Czyz tomorrow as the springboard to big pay days in the future.

"Just beating him won't be enough," said Hill. "I have to look impressive. That's why this is the biggest fight of my career. A good showing here and I can make a lot of money."

Hill, unbeaten in 23 fights, is a 5-1 favourite to make a fifth successful defence of his crown.

Ski championships

HINDELANG, West Germany, March 3. (AP): Hermann Reitberger of West Germany won the ballet event on Wednesday in finals competition at the world freestyle ski championships.

The 30-year-old World Cup defender scored 27.60 points, followed by Lane Spina of the United States with 26.45. Dave Walker of Canada finished third with 26.40 points.

GILBERT ADVANCES INTO WCT FINALS

Lendl and McEnroe to meet in semifinals

DALLAS, March 3. (AP): It was a long night for Ivan Lendl and Jakob Hlasek, and a short one for John McEnroe and Andre Agassi at the WCT finals. Top-seeded Lendl barely avoided the upset trend that claimed Mats Wilander and Stefan Edberg, needing to win four of a tournament-record four tiebreakers to overcome Jakob Hlasek in Wednesday's second quarterfinal match.

Lendl outlasted Hlasek, 7-6 (7-5), 1-6, 7-6 (7-4), 6-7 (7-0), 7-6 (7-4) in a four-hour, 37-minute marathon that was the second-longest match in WCT finals history. It fell three minutes short of the McEnroe-Bill Scanlon quarterfinal in 1982.

Default Lendl will face McEnroe in the semifinals. McEnroe won by default earlier Wednesday when Agassi retired in the second set after suffering a recurrence of a left hip strain.

Three times in the final set Hlasek was down a break, but he fought back with breaks of his own in the second, sixth and 10th games.

Lendl, who has returned to his customary top position in the rankings, fought off a match point on his serve in the 12th game to send the match into a tournament-record fourth tiebreaker.

Lendl then held off Hlasek to halt the tournament's string of upsets, winning the tie-break with a backhand return down the line. Then he said he was impressed with the play of Hlasek, who has risen to ninth in the ATP rankings.

"He's very solid," said Lendl, who won his eighth match this year without a defeat. "If you

don't play your best, he'll beat you. Any new face helps. It's good for everybody."

Lendl overcame a game penalty for verbal abuse by referee Richard Irgs in the fourth game of the fourth set. An out call that sent the game to deuce was disputed by Lendl.

Irgs penalised Lendl for abusing a lineswoman. The game penalty helped Hlasek hold his serve to square the set at 2-2.

Lendl had received two warnings before his code violation, leaving him one warning short of a default. But afterward, Lendl, who battled through the match with various linespersons, wasn't in an apologetic mood.

Missed "I just felt there were a lot of bad calls," he said.

Hlasek said the difference in the match was the tiebreakers.

"I lost concentration and missed some easy shots," he said. "I couldn't take advantage of him. Then, in the fifth set (tiebreaker), he just played better."

"Obviously, I'm very disappointed," Hlasek said. "If I would have won, it would have been my greatest match ever. I never played so long in my life."

McEnroe advanced with an unsatisfying victory over Agassi.

"He stopped playing so I won," McEnroe said. "I would have preferred beating him fair and square. I wish I would have kicked his behind. I'm shocked to be sitting here with a victory like this."

Agassi had taken the first set 6-4 after breaking McEnroe's serve in the match's opening game. But, after falling behind 3-0 in the second set, Agassi informed umpire Perry Armstrong he had had enough, collected his equip-

ment and walked off to the boos of the reunion area crowd.

"I didn't want to do that," Agassi said. "I was very disappointed. It's too bad the match didn't meet up to what people thought it would. I don't know if they (the fans) hate me. They were just disappointed."

Agassi, who was not limping noticeably during the match, later said he incurred the injury during the US pro indoors in Philadelphia last weekend and had considered defaulting before Wednesday's match.

"I'd been icing it, hoping it would go away," said Agassi, ranked fourth by the ATP computer.

"It's very bizarre. It's unbelievable," said McEnroe, who does not count the 19-year-old Agassi among his closest friends on the tour. "If we have anyone standing by the finals, it'll be a plus."

Meanwhile, Brad Gilbert came to the tennis finals as a replacement for West Germany's Boris Becker, then beat Stefan Edberg and Mikael Pernfors to reach the final.

Gilbert, of the United States, scored a 6-3, 6-7 (4-7), 6-3, 6-3 win over Pernfors in three hours and three minutes and stands to earn a minimum of \$100,000.

"I have had some good breaks this week," said Gilbert, a tournament replacement for an ill Becker. "I am surprised to get in, but I took advantage in the situation. I was fortunate and I capitalised."

Accurate Gilbert relied on an accurate first serve to gain free points and pressured Pernfors with passing shots off the forehand.

"You have to beat him



Lendl in action during the quarterfinal match against Hlasek. (Reuters wirephoto)

because he is a fighter," said Gilbert. "We are both counterpunchers and you can't make a lot of mistakes against him. He is a tough player and very creative."

Pernfors, however, was disappointed with the way he performed.

"I am upset with this match," said Pernfors. "For some reason I was in a bad mood and I just don't know why. I was behaving like a jerk and I was rushing a lot of my shots."

Gilbert, who was made to do a lot of running in the match, will face either former Wimbledon champion John McEnroe of the United States or world number one Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia in the final tomorrow.

"My stats aren't too great against those guys," said Gilbert. "I will just go out and do what I can in the situation. Hopefully they will have played for five hours and be dead."

Mandlikova and Phelps advance to quarterfinals

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, March 3. (Reuters): Hana Mandlikova and Terry Phelps were both extended but came out winners yesterday to advance to the quarterfinals of the \$200,000 women's Hardcourt Tennis Championships.

The sixth-seeded Mandlikova of Australia beat West German Eva Pfaff 6-4 3-6 6-2, while American Phelps, the eighth seed, defeated Dinky Van Sersburg of South Africa 7-5 6-3.

Advantage Italy's Linda Ferrando was the third player to advance in three sets as she took advantage of careless Puerto Rican Gigi Fernandez 6-7 (4-7) 6-3 6-2 in their second-round match. Fernandez committed 64 unforced errors to Ferrando's seven.

Mandlikova, a native of Czechoslovakia, sat out much of 1988 with a hamstring injury. But the 27-year-old Mandlikova, whose ranking has fallen to 29, is on the way back.

"I had no rhythm in the second set at all," said Mandlikova who

reached the semifinals at the Australian Open in January. "She started playing better. I just fought a little harder and started playing better toward the end."

In her 97-minute struggle against Pfaff, Mandlikova rallied from a 1-4 deficit to take the first set by reeling off the last five games.

Broke Pfaff twice broke the serve of Mandlikova, former Australian and US Open champion, to win the second set and even the match.

But the final set was all Mandlikova, whose quarterfinal opponent will be unseeded American Camille Benjamin.

Phelps, ranked 45th, came back from 0-2 down in the final set to win the dubious honour of facing world number one Steffi Graf in the quarterfinals.

The other quarterfinal pairings were fifth-seeded American Patty Fendick against compatriot Katrina Adams, while Ferrando meets American Ann Henricksson.

Palestinians invited for talks on FIFA membership

RIYADH, March 3. (Reuters): Joao Havelange, president of world soccer's governing body, said he had invited the Palestinian Football Association (PFA) to meet him for talks on membership of the International Football Federation (FIFA).

Havelange told a news conference yesterday he had had an informal meeting with PFA officials attending the World Youth Championship here.

"I've invited the Palestinian Football Association to visit me when I am next in our Swiss headquarters in Zurich for formal talks on membership," he said.

"FIFA will be happy to give the Palestinian Football Association all the necessary information we give prospective members in their bid to seek membership," he added.

FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni said the informal meeting had been the Palestinians' first approach to the federation for information on eligibility for membership.

Palestinian teams have for several years played against club sides in the Arab world.

Last November the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) proclaimed an independent Palestinian state and in January an amateur squad calling itself the Palestinian national soccer team toured Italy and France.

The tour was aimed partly at persuading the International Olympic Committee to recognise Palestine before the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

FIFA facilitated the tour by agreeing to suspend a rule forbidding members from playing against unrecognised sides.

Tyner leads in Pakistan golf championship

LAHORE, Pakistan, March 3. (Reuters): Tray Tyner of the United States held on to the lead in the \$120,000 Pakistan Open golf championship today after a par 72 in the second round.

He was lying one stroke ahead of Japan's Gotoh Satoh who shot a second round 70 for a total of 142.

But Remi Bouchard of Canada, who shared the overnight lead with Tyner, dropped back after playing a poor 83 which gave him a total of 152.

Third place on 144 was shared by three Americans — Brian Claar, winner of the Hong Kong and Thailand Opens, Tim Fleming and Mark Tauber.

Two other Americans hit the day's best score. David Walsworth, who played a disappointing 77 on Thursday, added 69 to make 146 and Steve Schroeder also hit 69 for a total of 149.

Caribbean tour match against West Indies President's XI Last pair lift India to 356 all out

BRIDGETOWN, March 3. (Reuters): A last wicket stand of 39 between Sanjeev Sharma and Margashayam Venkataramana took India to a first innings total of 356 on the second day of their opening Caribbean tour match against a West Indies President's XI today.

Resuming at 283 for six, India lost Kiran More and Robin Singh to Tony Gray for the addition of only 12 runs.

The 300 arrived in the 102nd over but soon afterwards Arshad Ayub was well caught at first slip by Andrew Jackman to give George Ferris his third wicket of the innings.

Sharma, with a single Test innings of 18 not out against the New Zealanders at Hyderabad last December, then took the attack to the hosts. He hit five fours and a five in his unbeaten 40.

The tourists were dismissed 10 minutes before lunch when Venkataramana tried to sweep the leg-spin of Robert Haynes and was bowled behind his legs for 12.

Aggression On a wicket that was not too helpful to pace bowlers, Indian batsmen mixed aggression with caution, with opener Krish Srikanth hitting a quickfire 40 in 41 minutes.

Yesterday, fast bowlers Anthony Gray and George Ferris made two late strikes to help a West Indies President's XI regain the initiative in India's opening Caribbean tour match at the Kensington Oval.

The tourists closed on 283 for six with Ravi Shastri and Mohammed Azharuddin both hitting half centuries.

Ferris removed former Indian captain Kapil Dev, who was adjudged leg before wicket, with the score on 272 and eight runs later Azharuddin edged a Gray leg-cutter to wicket-keeper David Williams.

Azharuddin hit four fours and one six in his 52, which took 118 minutes.

The adventurous Dev made 46 and was severe on short-pitched deliveries, despatching two in one over from Gray to the boundary.

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James leads in second round of Dubai classic

DUBAI: Mark James forced his way into the lead in the second round of the £250,000 Karl Litten Overseas Desert Classic yesterday while his young, fellow-Englishman Paul Broadhurst produced the real fireworks at the Emirates Golf Club.

While James was adding a second round 68 to his first day score of 69 for a seven-under-par total of 137, Broadhurst, a former English amateur international, equalled the six-under-par course record of 66 which had been set the previous day by Denmark's Soren Tinning.

Lifted That brilliant performance by Broadhurst lifted him to second position, just one shot behind James, while Tinning slipped back to five-under-par after an adventurous round of 73.

Level with Tinning on 139 are Magnus Persson of Sweden who scored a level par 72, and Australian Peter O'Malley who climbed into contention with a splendid four-under-par 68.

One shot further behind on 140 is England's David Williams who went round in a level par 72, with Ryder Cup star Sam Torrance, punished by a double bogey six on the demanding eighth hole — his 17th of the day — finishing with a 71 for a 141 total.

Second round leader James admitted he had been inspired since arriving in Dubai for the Middle East's first professional golf tournament at the only grass

championship course in the Gulf region.

"This is my kind of tournament," he said. "It's a good course, the weather is great, there are perfect greens, a good practice ground and a good practice putting green. I am enjoying my golf again because I'm playing better."

Broadhurst produced a burst of birdies on the last four holes on his way to a share of the course record — comfortably his best performance since turning professional last year.

Tinning managed five birdies yesterday and at one stage held the lead at eight-under-par. But he lost ground after finding the lake with his second shot to the ninth green, and then had a double bogey six on the 12th hole where his approach shot finished against a palm tree and he had to take a penalty shot.

Leading scores after two rounds: 137 — M. James (England) 69, 68; 138 — P. Broadhurst (England) 72, 66; 139 — M. Persson (Sweden) 67, 72; P. O'Malley (Australia) 73, 68; S. Tinning (Denmark) 66, 73; 140 — D. Williams (England) 68, 72; 141 — S. Torrance (Scotland) 70, 71; A. Sorensen (Denmark) 70, 71; 142 — A. Forsbrand 71, 71; E. Dussart (France) 71, 71; J. Higgins (England) 70, 72; D. Smyth (Ireland) 70, 72; A. Binaghi (Italy) 68, 74; G. Brand Jr (Scotland) 71, 71.

Nigeria beaten in final

Portugal clinch World Youth Cup

RIYADH, March 3. (Agencies): Portugal landed their first major soccer title by beating Nigeria 2-0 in the World Youth Championship finals today.

Nigeria, four times African champions and third in Moscow in the 1985 tournament, found the Portuguese more than a match in speed and technique.

In the first 10 minutes Nigeria's jittery defence conceded six corners before calm was restored and play switched rapidly from end to end with each thwarted attack giving way to a rapid counter.

Joao Pinto in a scintillating solo run beat four defenders but Nigerian goalkeeper Emeka Amadi had no difficulty parrying his weak shot. Portuguese keeper Jose Bizarro was in action to ward off three Nigerian scoring chances.

Portugal broke through a minute before the interval when Abel Silva, unmarked in the penalty area, volleyed home a low cross.

The Nigerians swarmed into the attack in the second half forcing three corners in as many minutes and it was the turn of the Portuguese defence to panic.

But Jorge Couto made amends for wasting a splendid chance earlier when he put the issue beyond doubt in the 77th minute by firing a hard drive into the left-hand corner after a solo run.

The Nigerians threw everything into attack but the Portuguese defence shattered their dreams of becoming the first African nation to win the championship.

Brazil, beaten by Portugal in the semifinals, defeated the United States 2-0 in the third place playoff.

Kept at bay by a determined United States team, Brazil found their touch in the second half after a slow-paced first period.

Brazil delighted the capacity crowd with some pleasing designs, but American goalkeeper Kasey Keller was at hand when his team's defense snapped.

Ricardo Franca missed a clear chance for Brazil from close range in the 16th.

But after the break, Franca scored Brazil's first goal, unleashing a powerful shot in the 46th after picking up a pass from Leonardo Nascimento de Araujo in the penalty area.

The goal spurred the Brazilians into a flurry of action around the American goal.

In the 69th minute Nascimento de Araujo scored Brazil's second goal with a scorching drive from nearly 20 yards (metres) out of the penalty box.

American coach Bob Gansler said after the game: "I feel my young team gave its utmost. They did the best that they could. They were very tired."

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Samaranch to visit Kuwait

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, March 3. (KUNA): International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch is to visit Kuwait next week, as part of a six-nation trip which will also take him to Iran, Iraq, Bahrain, Jordan and Lebanon.

IOC spokeswoman Michele Verdier said that Olympic Committee of Asia chairman Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed would be accompanying Samaranch on his tour.

Although details still had to be confirmed, Samaranch was expected to arrive in Kuwait on March 7, and from there would go to Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon, spending one day in each country.

He had already been to Kuwait and Bahrain before, but never to the other four, she noted.

When he was elected as head of the Olympic movement nearly eight years ago, he had pledged that during his term of office he would visit every national Olympic committee, 167 in all.

Up to now he had been to 160. At the end of the planned trip the remaining three would be Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Bhutan, and he intended to visit them before the summer, when he would be standing as a candidate for a second term, but for four years only, as IOC president.

The purpose of the visits was to enhance links between the national committees and the Lausanne headquarters of the movement, Verdier said.

In Iran and Iraq, he would be talking to sports officials about the implications of the ceasefire in the war for international sports, she added.

Both countries had taken part in last year's Olympic Games in Korea, she recalled.

The Lebanese National Olympic Committee had managed to keep functioning despite the problems of the country, Verdier observed.

Luton beat West Ham

LONDON, March 3. (Reuters): English League Cup holders Luton return to Wembley on April 9 to face Nottingham Forest after beating West Ham 2-0 on Wednesday in the second leg of their semifinal.

England striker Mick Harford put Luton ahead after 43 minutes and Roy Wegerle added the second after 55 minutes, his 11th goal of the season. It gave Luton a 5-0 victory on aggregate.

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